



No 3,637

THE INDEPENDENT

MONDAY 15 JUNE 1998

(IR 50p) 45p

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A cruel waiting game for Beckham

EAMON DUNPHY • 13 PAGES OF SPORT



24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

Deborah Ross and the uberbabe

MONDAY REVIEW FRONT



The best PCs under £1000



7-PAGE NETWORK SECTION

Police fail in date rape epidemic

THERE HAS been a huge rise in the number of reported "date rapes", according to an unpublished Home Office study.

But the study also finds worrying evidence that the police are breaking official guidelines in many cases by failing to pass cases on to the Crown Prosecution Service to consider whether to bring charges.

The report, "The Processing of Rape Cases" by the Criminal Justice System, completed last November by Jessica Harris, found that half of all rape attacks were reported by their victims as "date rapes", an increase from 35 per cent in 1985. Government researchers believe that a big increase in rape attacks on women by lovers, partners or "dates" may explain a dramatic fall in the number of men being convicted in court.

The report, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Independent*, also reveals that reported rapes by strangers have declined and now account for fewer than one in ten attacks.

The inquiry was set up by the Home Office in response to a threefold increase in recorded rape attacks on women since 1985. That figure has risen to about 6,400 a year, while the conviction rate has plummeted from 24 per cent to 9 per cent.

The study of 309 rape reports in 1996 found that half of the cases were assaults that occurred in an "intimate" relationship compared with 35 per cent in a survey in 1985. It also discovered that stranger rapes, contrary to widely held fears, were rare, and had dropped

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

from 30 per cent of cases in 1985 to just 8 per cent in 1996. The number of attacks had fallen from more than 550 to 460.

On the question of why so few people are being jailed for rape, the Home Office criminologists conclude: "Initial findings suggest that this might be related to a large proportion of rapes involving intimate (date rape) being reported and these offences tend to be more difficult to prove than those involving strangers."

The phenomena of date rape was highlighted in August 1993 by the case of the solicitor Angus Diggle, 38, who was jailed for three years - reduced to two on appeal - for attempting to rape a lawyer in a hotel room after he took her to a Highland ball. After he had been arrested, Mr Diggle allegedly told police: "I have spent £200 on her. Why can't I do what I did to her?"

Rape support groups have been extremely critical of the police and courts for their apparent reluctance to prosecute suspected rapists who have had a relationship with their victim because the defence can argue that the woman consented.

This concern was supported by the study's findings that rape cases were most likely to be dropped if they involved previous consensual contact between the complainant and suspect, if the woman was aged over 35, and if there was no evidence of any violence or injury.

The report accuses the police of withholding some reports of rape by unilaterally deciding that no crime had been committed. Home Office guidelines state that only false complaints should be "no crime"; unsubstantiated complaints should be recorded.

In addition, it found evidence that many more cases were being classified as "no further action" by the police because they believed there was not enough evidence to charge the defendant. Of the 306 alleged rapes examined, the police only sought advice from the Crown Prosecution Service in 50 cases, most of which were dropped on grounds of insufficient evidence. Nearly one-quarter - 72 cases - were "no crime". The interim report states: "Despite [a] Home Office Circular which advised that only false complaints should be no-crime, cases often appeared to be no-crime for other reasons."

Overall, just 74 cases - fewer than one-quarter - reached court, although the conviction rate is not available. Of the remaining cases, the police decided not to charge a suspect in 113 - 37 per cent - in 22 no suspect was identified, and four suspects received cautions.

Lisa Longstaff, spokeswoman for Women Against Rape, said: "Being raped by someone you know is no less serious or traumatic... We do not believe these cases should be any harder to prove and this should never be used as a reason not to prosecute a suspect."

A victim's tale, page 4



An England fan kicks away a tear gas round during disturbances in the Old Port area of Marseilles

Peter Macdiarmid

England fans battle riot police

THE WORST violence of the World Cup yet erupted yesterday evening as hundreds of England fans were involved in skirmishes with French riot police in Marseilles.

Police fired at least 12 canisters of tear gas as supporters hurled bottles and glasses in violence which was more serious than that of Saturday.

The trouble, which broke out at around 4.30pm local time, came as the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, appealed to fans to behave. "Fans are ambassadors just like us," he said. "We

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in Marseilles

prepared well for this World Cup and we do not want any distractions off the field."

The disturbance, in Marseilles' Old Port area, came after a generally good-natured day in the city. English and Tunisian fans had been drinking in the same bars with no sign of trouble. It is believed violence began after several hundred Tunisian supporters marched in procession towards a group of bars where hundreds of English

supporters were drinking. Eyewitnesses said one England fan approached the march in an attempt to stop it and broke a Tunisian flag being carried by one of the marchers.

Fighting then broke out and riot police, supported by dog-handlers moved in. At least six English fans were arrested, apparently after being picked out by English police spotters. A number of people were hurt.

As on Saturday night, police intelligence officers believe the majority of those involved in the trouble were not what they de-

scribed as hard-core trouble-makers. "Things will get a lot busier when they arrive," said an intelligence source.

Part of the problem stems from the fact that Marseilles is awash with black market tickets and they are selling for as little as £40 each. The Football Association has estimated that while 9,200 English fans may have "legal" tickets, another 3,000 may have resorted to touts. All the tickets have been printed with the name of the person who bought them originally, but this has had lit-

tle effect on the illegal sales. The head of security at the Stade Velodrome, Jean Francois Falco, admitted yesterday that it would be impossible to match the names of those people entering the stadium with those printed on their tickets.

This, in effect, will destroy the planned segregation of fans within the stadium, adding to the potential for violence and disruption, a particularly sensitive issue after last night.

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World Cup reports, pages 28-32

Prescott defiant on nuclear waste

BRITAIN is preparing to defy most of Europe over radioactive discharges to the sea from the nuclear plants at Sellafield and Dounreay, and the deputy prime minister John Prescott, a long-time campaigner against Britain's nuclear pollution of the seas, will next month be the man defending the policy.

Mr Prescott, who once visited 10 Downing Street in a frogman's suit to protest against radioactive waste dumping, will lead the British team at a conference in Portugal which aims to start a once-and-for-all clean-up of the seas in the north-east Atlantic.

At the top of the agenda is a crack-down on the discharge of man-made radioactive substances, such as

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

those produced by Sellafield's giant Thorp plant for reprocessing spent nuclear power station fuel, and a proposal which proclaims that they should be "close to zero".

Fourteen of the sixteen member states of the Oslo-Paris Commission (OSPAR), which regulates the north-east Atlantic marine environment, support the resolution. In the pre-conference negotiations, however, Britain, backed only by France, has been vigorously opposing it and sponsoring an alternative and much vaguer clause.

Furthermore, Britain is seeking to water down the pro-



Deputy PM John Prescott

posed OSPAR timetable for a complete halt to nuclear discharges, allowing some discharges to continue.

Sarah Burton, the cam-

paigns director for Greenpeace, said: "It is criminal that Britain is attempting to sabotage this opportunity to get rid of nuclear pollution in the seas."

"I can't believe that John Prescott, who spent many years campaigning - in the end successfully - to stop nuclear dumping at sea, should now be in the position to stop the last bit of dumping through these discharge pipes - and fail to do it."

However, Mr Prescott's deputy, the environment minister Michael Meacher, stressed: "This is a ministerial conference and we still have to decide the ministerial line that we take. To say this is the ministerial position would be premature."

"We want to reduce radioactive discharges and my wish is that they should be as low as feasible. But we need to be satisfied before making any commitment that we are capable of delivering it."

England and France, he added, were the major nuclear nations in OSPAR and in a different position from the other member states.

The treaty which Mr Prescott is due to sign at Sintra near Lisbon on 23 July will be legally binding on the signatories.

At the heart of the matter is that Britain and France, the only countries with big nuclear reprocessing plants, fear their operations might be severely restricted or even halted by a

drastic cutback. "Zero" emissions would certainly close the £9bn Thorp plant, which has nearly 7,000 tonnes of mainly Japanese and German spent fuel awaiting reprocessing, and France's equivalent at Cap La Hague near Cherbourg - although "close to zero" remains to be defined.

British Nuclear Fuels, operators of Sellafield, refused to comment on whether "close to zero" emissions would force the closure of Thorp. "What you are postulating is speculation," a spokesman said.

An emissions ban would have a similar effect on the smaller and discredited Dounreay plant in Scotland, which the Government announced two weeks ago is to be shut down.

EU losing support of its citizens, warns Labour

THE EUROPEAN UNION is losing the support of its citizens, a high-level Labour policy group has warned. A leaked party document, approved by the Prime Minister, says less than half of Europe's people now believe the EU is "a good thing" - just 46 per cent, compared with 70 per cent in 1990.

The Labour paper will underline British calls for

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

reform as European leaders meet in Cardiff today. Tony Blair will call for political reforms to bring Europe closer to its people. He has also put Peter Mandelson in a group, with Spain, Sweden and France, seeking a "third way" for the EU.

The proportion who be-

lieve their country has benefited from Europe has fallen from six in ten to four in ten in the same period.

The paper, produced by a Labour policy commission and approved by the party's Joint Policy Committee which is chaired by Tony Blair, says the EU is failing to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people of Europe.

"Over the last few years the

European Union has suffered a grave loss of support," the document says. "As an organisation founded on democratic principles the European Union cannot succeed without the consent of the people." European summits often seem remote and irrelevant, with too much time devoted to obscure institutional debates.

Ironically, this week's two-day European Council meeting could be overshadowed by German demands for a budget rebate. But the Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "We have made it clear, and I think it is generally understood, that the British rebate is not up for grabs."

The paper warns that in Britain there is public fear that Europe is "set on an inexorable path to a centralised super state". While the drive to open the single market has caught the enthusiasm of business, it has become "a bureaucratic obsession" in the eyes of many citizens. People feel Brussels is interfering too much, it warns.

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Oxfam Sudan Appeal

This is your chance to help Oxfam to prevent widespread famine in Sudan.

Right now, people are running out of food because of war and drought. Your gift will help Oxfam to stop people dying of starvation.

Your gift will pay for food, clean water, medical help, and sanitation. It will also help people to become self-sufficient again, by providing cattle and goats to replace the ones they have had to slaughter for food.

Oxfam is urging everyone involved to find a peaceful solution to the problems in Sudan. But people need your help now.

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£25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £250 ☐ £

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms

Address

Postcode

Please send to: Oxfam, Room BB07, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR

Sudan Appeal Line 01865 313131

OXFAM

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The fast bowler Dean Headley has been recalled by England for the second Test against South Africa

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No 10 denies blocking Branson

Tony Blair's office denied it had blocked William Hague's nomination for a Richard Branson knighthood. Page 7

Parents flock to The Ridings

Parents are flocking to send their children to The Ridings School, once branded the worst in Britain. Page 8

FOREIGN NEWS
PAGES 11-14**Racist vote stuns Australia**

One Nation, a fringe party, won almost a quarter of the vote in a state election on a platform calling for an end to immigration and welfare for Aborigines. Page 11

Hope for UN war crimes court

Delegates from 120 countries gather in Rome today to finalise a treaty setting up a permanent International Criminal Court under the aegis of the UN. Page 12

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More than 100 MPs and peers are supporting Nationwide in its battle to keep its mutual status. Page 15

Retail rents are spiralling

Retail rents are growing rapidly in spite of warnings that rental levels are becoming uneconomic. Page 16

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Nigel Mansell, competing in touring cars at Donington, crashed before weaving his way back to fourth. Page 24

Batistuta saves Argentina's pride

Gabriel Batistuta saved Argentina from shame in the World Cup, scoring a goal to beat Japan 1-0. Page 30

MONDAY REVIEW
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Ian Hargreaves

'It is not surprising that the Dome and the Third Way are such favoured targets of mockery from both the Left and the Right.' Page 4

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Britain at a standstill: Millions expected to take day off as action halts the Underground

Business falls foul of World Cup fever

THE WORLD Cup may or may not be coming home, but one thing looks certain - millions of England football supporters will be staying at home today to watch the team's opening match.

Employers expect vast numbers to remain in front of their television sets, and for Londoners a Tube strike provides a convenient excuse. The rest of the country will have to improvise, but beer sales at supermarkets yesterday suggested that plans were already well advanced.

Beer sales at Tesco were reported to be up by as much as 150 per cent. "We did expect a hike in beer in sales but the way sales have rocketed is quite surprising. Sales of fast-foods, particularly pizzas, have also gone up," said a Tesco spokesman.

According to a study by the Institute of Personnel and Development, one in three men in Britain will take time off to watch the match. That will, according to one economist, cost the economy more than £1bn.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, head of economics at the accountants Chantrey Vellacott, has estimated that the economy will lose the equivalent of a third of a day's output.

The London Chamber of Commerce said the combination of the Tube strike and the football today would cost London at least £35m. Simon Sperry, chief executive, said: "We in business will be wishing England all the best but that does not mean firms should have to close down entirely for the afternoon."

"This is England's first match and there is hopefully a long way for the team to go in the tournament so it would be ridiculous to give England fans time off every time we play."

Mr Sperry said many employers were providing televi-

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

sion sets or radios for the day, but said workers should not abuse the generosity of their employer.

Businesses appear divided over how best to tackle World Cup fever. While some will not look kindly on workers who neglect their work this afternoon, others are installing television screens at work.

Sainsbury's said it would allow its workers to catch at least a glimpse of the game. A spokeswoman said the company expected stores to be quieter than usual and staff would be allowed to watch the game on a rota basis in staff canteens.

"We don't expect major problems with staff phoning in sick because we are trying to be accommodating throughout the World Cup," she said.

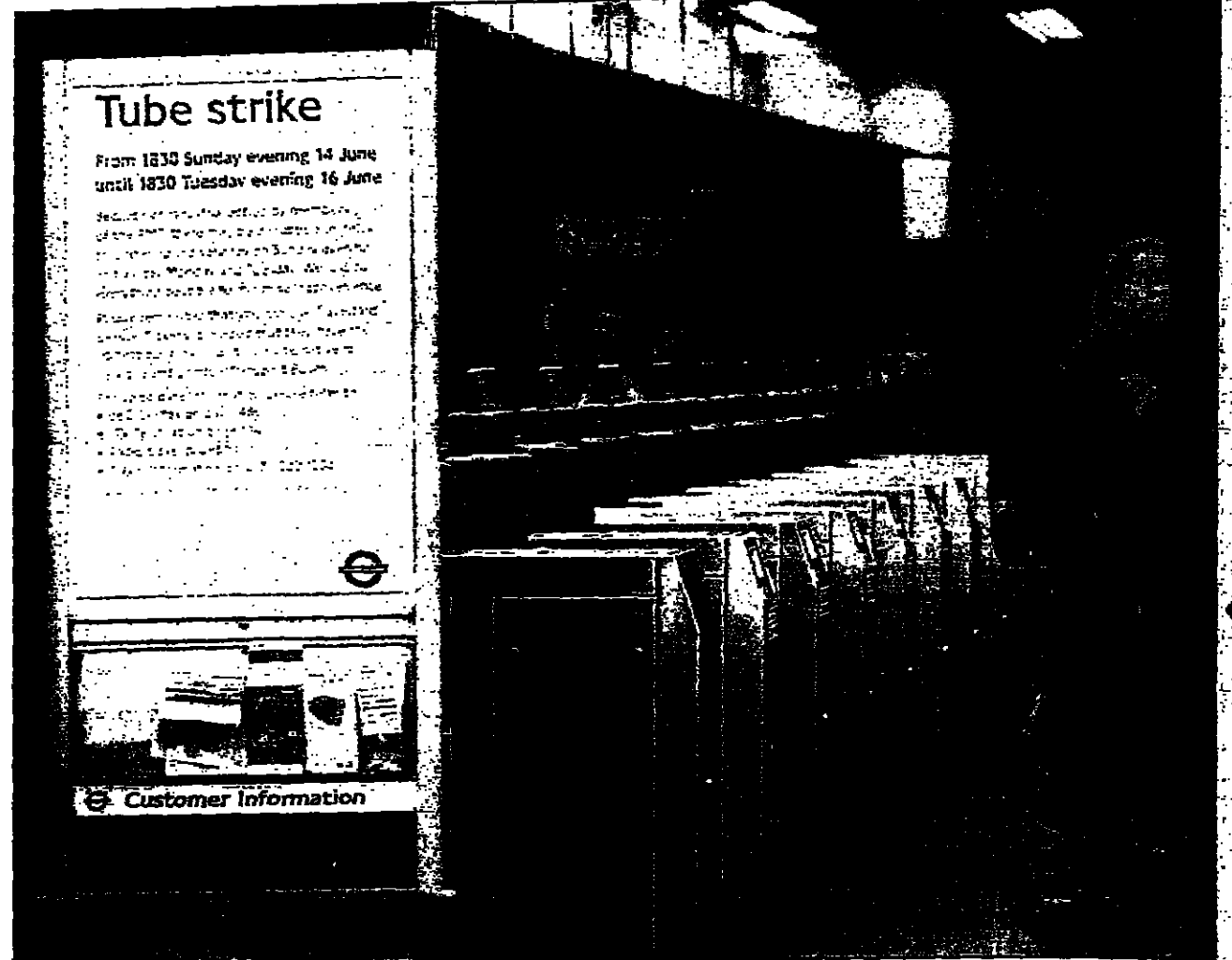
A National Grid spokeswoman said staff will be expected to turn up to work to cope with the predictable post-match power surge as kettles are switched on across the nation. She said: "Our engineers have to monitor TV all day so we're not expecting any to throw a sickie."

The car firm Peugeot is broadcasting live commentary of all England and Scotland games on its factory floors.

The game will also be shown on a big screen at Tory party headquarters in London, and for the 90 minutes England are on the field staff will be "concentrating on things other than the direct promotion of the Conservative Party", a spokesman said.

He added: "Lord Parkinson was always a popular party chairman. Now he's an even more popular party chairman."

The move is believed to have been inspired by the Tory vice-chairman Archie Norman - a keen football fan.



Charing Cross Tube station prepared for the transport workers' strike today and tomorrow

Rusi Xavier

Commuters urged not to drive as Tube strike begins

TRANSPORT MINISTER Glenda Jackson has urged commuters not to drive into the capital during a two-day Underground strike in London.

To ease the misery that the industrial action will cause for thousands of commuters today and tomorrow, the minister said employers should encourage staff to work from home, stagger working hours or arrange alternative forms of transport.

Glenda Jackson said: "I would encourage people to walk or cycle wherever feasible."

Industrial action by members of the Rail Maritime and Transport union has led to the 48-hour halt in Tube services, which began at 6pm on Sunday evening.

Movement of abnormal loads through London will be banned on both strike days to try to keep traffic moving.

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

Highway authorities and public utilities have been asked to minimise roadworks.

The plea may be unnecessary, however, as thousands of workers are expected to stay at home today to watch England's opening game in the World

Cup. The London Chamber of Commerce said that a combination of the Tube strike and the football will cost the economy at least £35m on "Idle Monday".

Simon Sperry, chief executive of the chamber, said: "Others will find alternative ways of travelling but will want

to leave early to watch the football or allow extra time to get home."

"If the industrial action continues and either of the British teams progress to the later stages of the World Cup, it could be an extremely costly summer for business."

Britain could be on the verge of a new era of union militancy, the deputy Conservative leader, Peter Lilley, forecast on the eve of the Underground strike.

Mr Lilley told the Welsh Tory conference that there were now signs that the unions were once again "flexing their industrial muscle".

He warned: "From bus drivers in Cardiff to firemen in Essex, Underground employees in London, railway maintenance workers, and broadcast engineers nationwide, there is a creeping return of strike action."

Vicar does World Cup fans a service

IF FOOTBALL is the new religion, then the Rev Alan Comfort is turning the phenomenon on its head by using the game to convert fans to conventional religion. The former winger for Queen's Park Rangers, Leyton Orient and Middlesbrough and vicar of St Stephen and St Elizabeth churches in Buckhurst Hill, Essex, has installed a television with an eight-foot screen and a bar in his church hall, where 200 fans can watch World Cup games. When Mr Comfort joined the parish last year, his brief was to build the congregation. Capitalising on the national obsession was the obvious solution, he believed. "We're taking something that many people are interested in and we're saying that there's a message behind it, that there's something more important which is God," he said. "However, that doesn't make us any less passionate about football."

Cook denies minister misled the Lords

ROBIN COOK yesterday denied one of his ministers had misled the House of Lords over the possible breach of a UN arms embargo on Sierra Leone.

The Foreign Secretary was replying to a claim by Michael Howard, the shadow foreign secretary, that Foreign Office Minister Baroness Symons had misled the Lords, and that a personal apology was required. Mr Cook told BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost* that it was being suggested that because Lady Symons had been briefed on a possible customs investigation into arms dealing, she should have announced it to the Lords at the time.

"I can't imagine anything more absurd in the very early stages of a customs inquiry," Mr Cook said. "I mean, as if you should get up in the House and announce it. We're not going to get many successful investigations if we proceed in that way."

"She behaved impeccably, and has no reason to apologise," he added.

Sir John Kerr, Head of the Diplomatic Service, last week admitted in evidence to a Com-

BY ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

mons committee that Lady Symons had been briefed last March on the customs investigation into alleged sanctions-busting by military consultants Sandline International.

Last month Lady Symons appeared to tell the Lords she had not seen any papers about the inquiry, saying that she did not expect to see, "nor would it be proper and right for me to see", papers intended for other Foreign Office ministers.

The Foreign Secretary said yesterday that nobody had produced any evidence to suggest ministers had prior knowledge of an arms shipment.

Diana media coverage 'unfair and intrusive'

TELEVISION AND radio coverage of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was unfair and intrusive, according to a report published today.

Monitoring of viewers in September 1997 revealed that members of the public not only watched more than twice as many news and current affairs programmes than normal, but felt 11 per cent of those programmes were intrusive. The polls throughout the rest of the year revealed they felt that around 2 per cent of news and current affairs were intrusive.

The statutory watchdog, the Broadcasting Standards Com-

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

mission, which compiled the report for its sixth annual study on standards of taste, decency, fairness and privacy, concluded that its monitors felt: "The coverage was not always sensitively handled."

The BSC attributed the levels of distress to the strength of feeling among the public.

The BSC's research also found public concern over the 9pm "watershed", after which broadcasters may assume that children are not watching unsupervised.

The committee's chairman, Lady Howe, who has issued a written warning to the chairmen of the main broadcasters, said that viewers were concerned about "a high number of significant incidents of violence, sexual explicitness and bad language", notably between 8pm and 9pm.

Lady Howe added that the increase in unsuitable material "represents a disappointing trend". Complaints from the early peak-time schedule often focus on the harder subjects tackled in soaps and serial dramas such as *The Bill* and *Brookside*.

SWIFTCALL

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Australia	18p	N. Zealand	27p
Germany	14p	France	14p
Canada	10p	S. Africa	34p
India	50p	Malaysia	33p
Ireland	10p	UK	5p
Japan	18p	USA	8p

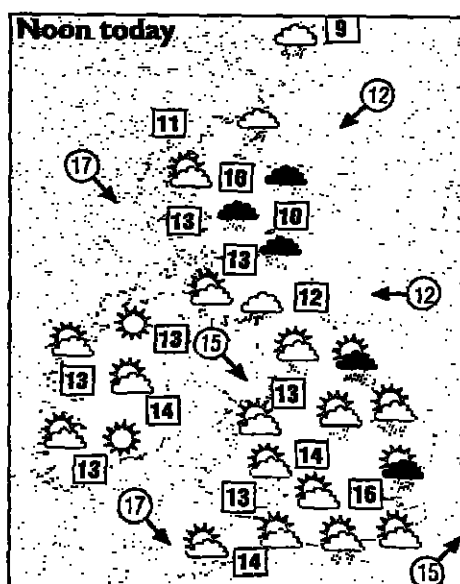
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BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

Most of Scotland will be cold with outbreaks of rain, turning heavy at times with dull, misty skies towards North Sea coasts and fog shrouding the hills. The north-west of Scotland will however escape dry with some decent spells of sunshine. Only a few lucky spots in England and Wales will see temperatures struggle up to the June average. Most parts will stay cool with a mix of sunshine and a scattering of showers. Northern Ireland will be cool and dry with sunny spells.

NEXT SEVERAL DAYS

Sunny spells in all but north-east Scotland on Tuesday, where it will be wet. There is the risk of showery rain in eastern England but western England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be dry. Rain will sweep across the UK on Wednesday, although southern and central England will escape the worst of this and turn out warm there for a change. Most parts will be blustery with a spell of rain on Thursday clearing from the west to sunny spells and scattered showers.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	22.01	to	04.47
Birmingham	21.32	to	04.44
Bristol	21.29	to	04.53
Glasgow	22.04	to	04.31
London	21.19	to	04.43
Manchester	21.40	to	04.39
Newcastle	21.47	to	04.27

HIGH TIDES

London	06:00	7.0	18:11	6.8
Liverpool	05:12	8.9	15:37	8.5
Aberdeen	11:24	12.1	23:48	12.0
Hull (Albert Dock)	10:24	8.1	23:00	7.9
Gretnock	04:33	3.3	17:03	3.1
Dun Laoghaire	03:30	3.9	16:18	3.6

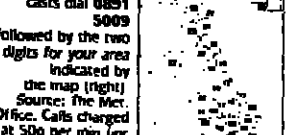
AIR QUALITY

London	NO ₂	Pollen	O ₃
S. England	Gd	High	Gd
Wales	Gd	High	Gd
C. England	Gd	Mod/High	Gd
N. England	Gd	Mod	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Low/Mod	Gd
N. Ireland	Gd	Mod	Gd

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	04.43
Sun sets:	21.19
Moon rises:	00.14
Moon sets:	10.24
Last quarter:	17th June

WEATHERLINE



YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon

KEY: C, cloudy; D, clear; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, haze; M, mist; R, rain; S, sun; Sh, shower; Ss, snow; Th, thunder.

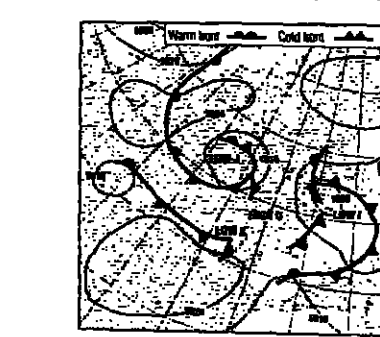
Aberdeen	C	12	54
Anglesey	C	13	55
Ayr	C	15	59
Belfast	F	16	61
Birmingham	Sh	14	57
Blackpool	C	14	57
Bournemouth	C	18	64
Brighton	Sh	15	59
Bristol	Sh	16	61
Cardiff	Sh	14	57
Carlisle	C	11	52
Dover	C	14	57
Dublin	C	15	59
Edinburgh	C	13	55
Exeter	C	16	61
Glasgow	C	17	63
Guernsey	C	16	61
Inverness	C	12	54
Isle of Wight	C	16	61
Isles of Scilly	C	15	59
Jersey	C	15	59
Liverpool	C	15	59
London	Sh	16	61
Manchester	R	14	57
Newcastle	R	11	52
Nottingham	Sh	17	63
Plymouth	C	14	57
Scarborough	C	15	59
Southampton	C	18	64
Southend	C	16	61
Stornoway	F	10	50
York	R	13	55

AIR QUALITY

London	NO ₂	Pollen	O ₃
S. England	Gd	High	Gd
Wales	Gd	High	Gd
C. England	Gd	Mod/High	Gd
N. England	Gd	Mod	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Low/Mod	Gd
N. Ireland	Gd	Mod	Gd

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Low I will move east and fill. High D will move east and intensify. Low K will run quickly north and deepen, merging with Low J.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time

Amman	28	82	Chengdu	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73	Yokohama	27	80
Amsterdam	14	57	Chongqing	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Ankara	28	82	Copenhagen	14	57	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Antwerp	14	57	Dakar	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Athens	28	82	Damascus	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Auckland	18	64	Dar es Salaam	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Bahia	28	82	Delhi	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Bahra	28	82	Dhaka	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Bangkok	28	82	Doha	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Barcelona	28	82	Durham	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Beirut	28	82	Eilat	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Belfast	14	57	Frankfurt	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Berlin	17	63	Geneva	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Bombay	28	82	Hankou	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Buenos Aires	28	82	Hong Kong	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Burgas	28	82	Hong Kong	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
Calcutta	28	82	Hong Kong	28	82	Colombia	28	82	Ulaanbaatar	23	73
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Tragic misadventure of maritime hero

BY CLARE GARNER AND
STUART ALEXANDER

FRANCE WAS mourning the death at sea of the world's greatest yachtsman and one of its favourite heroes yesterday after a series of extraordinary maritime blunders.

Eric Tabarly, the 66-year-old sailing legend whom the French worshipped in the same way they revered Cousteau, died in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The accident happened as Mr Tabarly's yacht was rounding the southwest corner of Wales, 35 miles off Milford Haven, just after midnight. On encountering choppy seas, with a wind gusting over 20 knots, it became necessary to reduce the sail area by reefing down the mainsail, which is supported at the top by a long pole called a gaff.

Mr Tabarly, seemingly oblivious to fear, volunteered to carry out the job. But while he was trying to secure one end of the gaff to the mast, the sail was struck by a gust of wind and he was knocked off the deck, over the guard rails and into the water.

The four remaining crew members - including a retired French admiral - threw out a lifebuoy in a bid to save their skipper, but they were unable to find him in the darkness. They knew he was probably not wearing a life-jacket. Nor had he been clipped on.

Mr Tabarly was renowned for refusing to wear a safety harness while at sea and was often quoted as saying: "I know I'm taking a risk, but I prefer to live free on my boat."

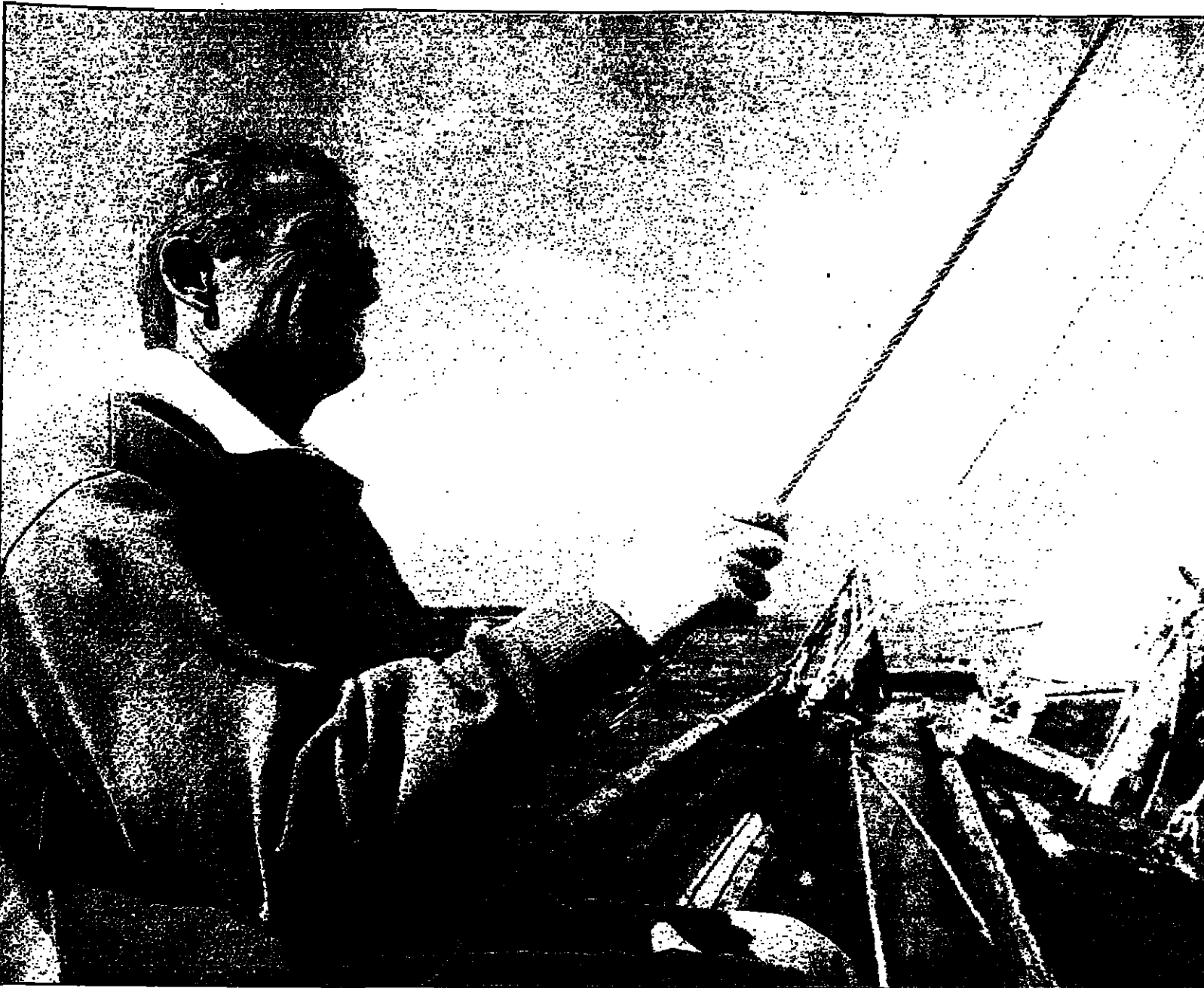
The crew was helpless. They could not do anything to help their skipper, nor could they seek assistance, for the boat had no radio on board.

A friend said yesterday: "All his life Tabarly was against the radio. He held them in great suspicion and said they never worked properly. So he refused to have one on board."

They did have a GPS, a satellite positioning system which told them precisely where they were, but the crew was unable to use that information either.

Despite setting off flares throughout the night, not least immediately after Mr Tabarly went overboard, they received no response.

Finally at 7.12am, a chance



Eric Tabarly, French sailing legend, on board Pen Duick, the boat from which he fell to his death early on Saturday morning. The vessel's crew (right) tried in vain to rescue their skipper. Rex

meeting with the 84ft Australian boat, Longobarda, meant that they could contact the emergency services. Longobarda contacted the air-sea rescue unit at Milford Haven immediately.

But by then, it was almost certainly too late. The water temperature was between 11 and 14 degrees and the average survival time in such circumstances is three to four hours. With three metre waves being kicked up by the blustery wind, Mr Tabarly's efforts to stay afloat would have been made even more difficult.

Nevertheless the full res-

cue procedure was set in motion. By 7.50am, a lifeboat had been dispatched from Milford Haven, a helicopter from Chivenor, north Devon and the warship, Quorn, which was at sea in the area, was instructed to assist. Longobarda began to help in the search of the 116-square mile area too.

The search continued until, 5pm, 17 hours after Mr Tabarly went missing, when the Milford Haven coastguard called it off. However, the French were not satisfied. They were granted permission to reopen the search and sent a rescue aircraft to the area. The British

agreed to assist their efforts. But after another five hours the search was called off.

Pen Duick, the boat on which Mr Tabarly learnt to sail, was escorted into Milford Haven harbour on Saturday evening, its crew in shock. The search was officially called off at 10.20pm on Saturday, 22 hours after the accident.

President Jacques Chirac, like many of his compatriots, had been hoping against hope that Mr Tabarly would be some miracle be found alive. But eventually they had to face the inevitable: that the single French aircraft still scouring

the area would be lucky even to find the body.

"Despite recent searches that have turned out to be in vain, Eric Tabarly was so present in the heart of French people, who believed he was indestructible, that I dared not believe that he had disappeared," Mr Chirac said in a statement. "It is with great sadness and feeling that I have to face the evidence. This fantastic sailor, endowed with a unique sense of the sea, has marked several generations of sailors."

He praised the national hero's will, perseverance and strength, adding: "As a ship captain, he lifted the colours of our country very high on the world's oceans."

The French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin also paid tribute to Mr Tabarly, who was, he said, "the symbol of the seaman." "This man who was afraid of nothing followed his passion and his will to the end," he said.

Mr Tabarly's fateful voyage began on Friday morning, ten days after a party to celebrate the 100th birthday of his boat, Pen Duick, a 49ft yacht, bought built by his father 50 years ago. The boat and crew were en-

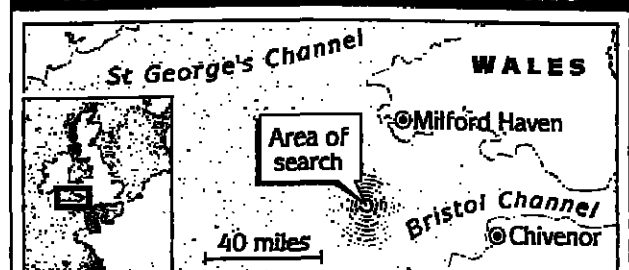
route to Fairlie, on the Clyde, where next weekend, there is a gathering of vintage yachts designed and built in that town by William Fife. They had interrupted their journey, taking shelter from heavy weather in the harbour at Newlyn, north Cornwall since Tuesday. Mr Tabarly even took in a tourist trip to Lands End. But on Friday morning, as the weather eased a little, Mr Tabarly decided to push on, knowing that he could break the journey again in Belfast if the weather deteriorated.

The crew comprised a close friend and photographer, Er-

wain Quemere, who was on the helm at the time of the accident, and the retired French admiral, Rebec, from Toulon. The other two were a couple from Chamonix, in the French Alps. They were friends of Mr Tabarly, who had bought a chalet as he developed a parallel passion for skiing.

Mr Tabarly was the winner of the first solo round-the-world yacht race, he set a speed record for crossing the Atlantic in 1980 and took several major solo racing titles. He established dozens of international sailing records.

THE SEARCH FOR A SEA HERO



Midnight, Saturday: Eric Tabarly goes overboard in heavy seas. He is not wearing a life jacket. His crew throw life buoy into the water and fire flares. No radio on board so they could not call the coastguard.

7.10am: Flare responded to by another yacht the Longobarda. Crew explain skipper lost seven hours earlier, but they had been unable to summon help from rescue services.

7.12am: Milford Haven coastguard receive call from Longobarda.

7.50am: Lifeboat dispatched from Milford Haven. Helicopter dispatched from Chivenor, north Devon. The warship, Quorn at sea in the area, goes to help search a 116-square mile area. Other ships passing through area assisted and keep look out throughout Saturday.

1pm: British rescue teams call off search.

5pm: French resume search, sending an aircraft. British agreed to assist and send two helicopters from Chivenor.

6pm: The aircraft and two helicopters make numerous sweeps of an extended 486-square mile search area but nothing is found.

10.20pm: Search finally called off after more than 22 hours of searching. Tabarly presumed dead, but French plane continues to scour the area for his body.

Sunday: French continue to look for body.



Woodward's mother is 'obsessed with money'

THE WOMAN who founded the Louise Woodward trust fund with a whip-round launched an outspoken attack on the au pair's mother yesterday.

Jean Jones, 50, said Sue Woodward, Louise's mother, "rode roughshod" over those trying to help and became obsessed with the money being raised.

Her harsh words strike at the reputation of the Woodwards at a crucial point in the saga: Louise Woodward, now 20, is waiting for the results of an appeal against her manslaughter conviction which could come any day.

Ms Jones' comments came after a week of bitter recriminations over the appeal fund, sparked by Elaine Whitfield Sharp, the lawyer who helped to defend Louise Woodward after baby Matthew Eappen died in her care. Ms Whitfield Sharp claimed the Woodwards

BY LOUISE JURY
AND ESTHER LEACH

had faked claims they made on the fund.

She said Mrs Woodward had falsified a £9,000 invoice for accommodation even though Ms Whitfield Sharp had looked after Louise in her home without payment.

The trustees held an emergency meeting and announced their continuing faith in Susan and Gary Woodward, who live in Elton, Cheshire. But their support failed to end the dispute because Daniel Sharp, the lawyer's husband, accused the trustees of not answering the claims.

While most people in Elton refused to criticise the Woodwards yesterday, Ms Jones said "the money became God" for Sue Woodward.

"She rode roughshod over everybody. She was the most

ungracious person I have ever met in my life," she told Sky News.

"She didn't have any thought for other people. I didn't care about myself because I decided to come out. But being outside looking in, I've seen how these people work, the kindness coming from their hearts, working for this family and she didn't give a damn about those people."

Ms Jones said the fund should be now stopped. "God bless all the people that helped and worked so hard - it's time to go home and go back to your own lives."

The Rev Ken Davey, Elton's vicar and chairman of the fund, said that Ms Jones had lost sight of what the fight was about. "I think it is a shame that this division is creeping in," he added.

"But I hope, in fact I am certain, that the vast majority of

the villagers are still with Sue Woodward."

Sandra McCabe, who also helped found the fund, called Ms Jones a prima donna. "Sue Woodward can prove she has got Louise's interests at heart. There was no need for Sue to do what Elaine Whitfield Sharp says she has done."

However, the stress was getting to everyone, Mrs McCabe added. "I wish the courts would make a decision soon."

The Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts is expected to make its ruling any day. It can quash the conviction, allow it to stand, or reimpose the original life sentence for second-degree murder which was overturned by Judge Hiller-Zobel last year. The defence has filed a fresh claim because of evidence the medical officer in charge of the post-mortem examination on Matthew failed to perform a key test in another trial.

Camera brings back dead stars

A COMPUTERISED camera that captures three-dimensional images could put dead film stars such as Marilyn Monroe and James Dean in new roles.

It could also create a whole generation of cheap "synthesians" - actors who will do anything, even the most dangerous stunts, without demanding more pay or days off because they will not exist outside a computer.

Developed by the Turing Institute, in Glasgow, the "whole body camera" is at present used to help surgeons create "virtual heads" of patients so they can plan complex facial operations to leave as few scars as possible. It captures a three-dimensional view of a person using a tent-frame system of cameras that feed data into a

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Science and Technology
Editor

computer. This then reconstructs the exact contours of the person photographed.

The scientists who developed the system realised that it would also be ideal for capturing the three-dimensional detail of living actors to create computer-generated versions. By choosing people who physically resemble dead actors - such as Monroe or Dean - they could in effect resurrect others.

The system goes on show in London next month, introduced by a virtual David Bowie and the Scottish scientists hope to take it into films, to produce computer-generated stars.

American technology for



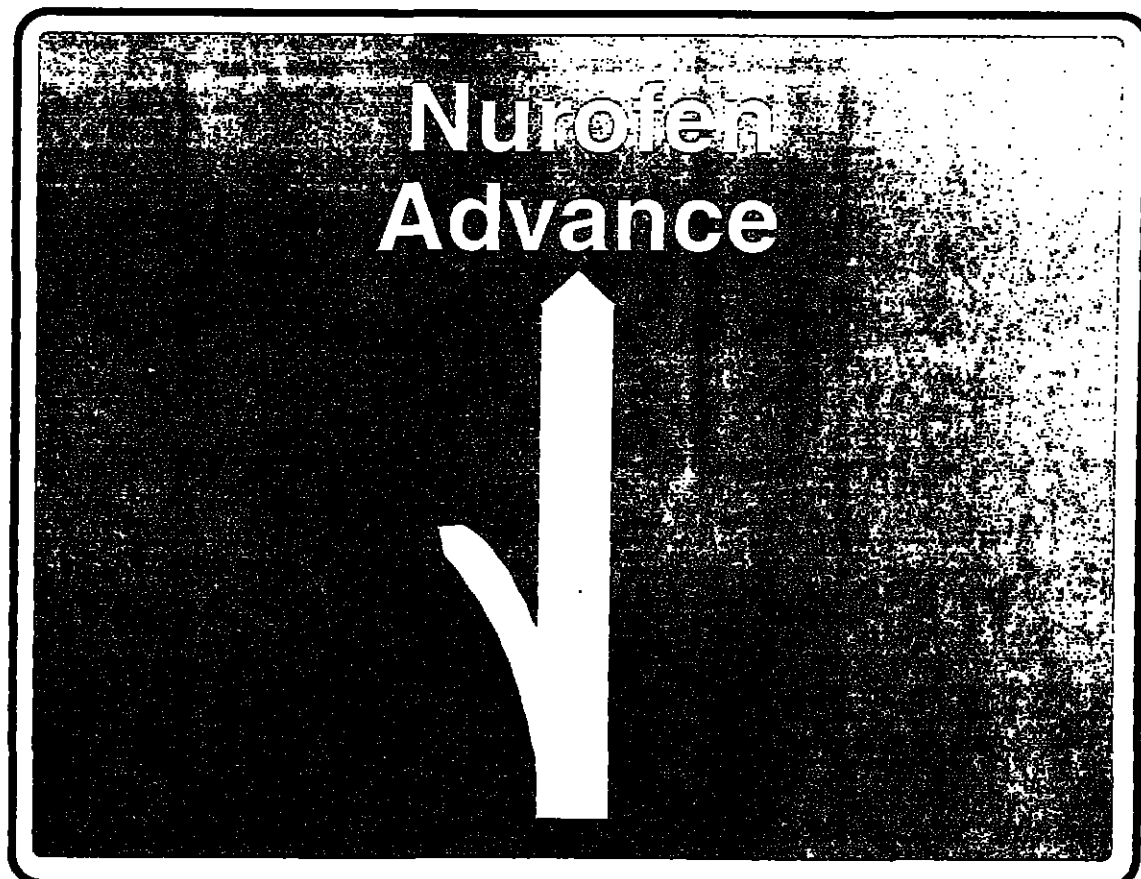
Marilyn could make a comeback on computer

virtual actors costs about £300,000 and requires the actor to remain perfectly still for 15 seconds, otherwise the image is blurred. It was used for Tom Cruise's antics in Mission Impossible, but in general the only

computer-generated film stars have been dinosaurs and spaceships. The Turing Institute's system costs just £50,000 and requires an exposure of only 1/30th of a second.

The institute has teamed up with the National Film and Television School's media laboratory, Createc, in London where the first version of the camera will be installed next month.

Peter Martin, head of production at Createc, said computer-generated actors would have to overcome the discerning eye of viewers. "Most of us are not great experts on the way dinosaurs move, but we are very critical about humans, so we must get their movements and expressions exactly right. This new technology will help us do that."



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4/HOME NEWS

Brutally raped, then asked to say thank you

"DEBBIE" WAS raped by a man she met on a night out and dated a couple of times.

Three weeks after she ended the relationship, the man and an accomplice forced their way into her home, beat, raped and abused her at knife-point.

Apparently a watertight case. But Debbie's ordeal, as with an increasing number of date rapes, ended in acquittal for the suspects and humiliation for the victim.

"I was in my local pub with my friends when he came over and chatted me up. I met up with him twice afterwards and we had sex on both occasions, but I didn't contact him again because he became aggressive and frightened me."

Three weeks later I was woken up on Sunday morning by him shouting and threatening me on the intercom. He said he would kick down the door and kill me if I didn't see him. I was petrified.

"I eventually went downstairs and he was furious. He smelt of alcohol and was doped up. He had a friend with him who looked a bit scared."

"I had been in care and the house was a halfway place before living on my own. It was empty - there were normally up to three girls staying there - and he pushed me into the kitchen."

"At first he just said he wanted to have sex with me. He then got a knife out and held it to my throat and ran it over my face."

"He grabbed my hair and started punching me in the face and then dragged me upstairs to my bedroom where both the men raped me. They dragged me up and down the stairs and raped me several times. They also forced me to have oral sex and buggered me. All the time he was punching and hitting me."

"When he finished he said he knew where my mum and dad lived and would kill them if I went to the police."

"He then asked me to thank him and kiss him on the cheek. When I refused he hit me in the face and stomach and between my legs. I had to kiss him and say thank you."

After the men left, Debbie called her social worker and cousin and went to the police.

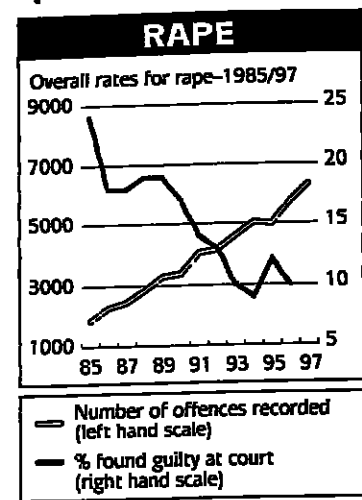
Debbie was beaten and abused but her attackers went free.

By Jason Bennetto

"All the police were very supportive and sympathetic, except for the police surgeon who was spiteful."

"She gave me a morning-after pill without saying what it was and gave me a rough internal examination. She only became sympathetic when she found several broken condoms crammed inside of me."

"When I walked through with the CID officer everyone stood up. I felt



people believed me. My only complaints were that they didn't fit a panic button at my house when they promised and they couldn't protect me from the rapist's friends and family: they would sit outside my flat and threaten me."

The two men were quickly charged with rape and the case went to the Crown Court.

"No one told me what to do or expect at court. I had never spoken to my barrister and had to ask someone who was on my side in court. He kept having to look at his notes to remember my name."

"Their side argued that I had consented and tried to say I was promiscuous. They said the injuries

were less than half an inch deep so they could have been caused during rough sex."

"I had to stand in the witness box for eleven and a half hours over four days and was cross-examined by three different barristers. I was so scared I wet myself at one point in the court."

"I had to pass the men's family and friends in the court every day. I could see the two men who kept making gestures to me, there were no screens and no one did anything about them. I was surprised that everyone was so near."

"I know it's a cliché, but it did feel like being raped again. I had to go through every detail. They also asked me whether I ever had abortions, why had I been at a home, was I abused as a child, whether I dreamed about having sex with more than one man."

"They wanted to know what position I liked to have sex, whether I liked it from behind and why wasn't I wearing any knickers - I kept telling them it was eight in the morning and I had just got up. They made a really big issue about the fact I was not wearing any underwear. They even wanted to know in what tone of voice did I scream 'no'."

"They made me feel it was all my fault. It was so intimidating. All those men with wigs - it was a bloody circus," she said.

The jury found the two men not guilty of rape. They admitted a charge of buggery, but the judge let them go free after ruling that the eight months they had been locked up awaiting the trial was penalty enough.

Several years later Debbie is still suffering abuse from the friends and family of the two men.

"I get called names like slag and spat at. I don't want to go out after 8pm. But, I'm going to college now and I'm happy most of the time. I still wake up at 8am every year on the day I was raped feeling nervous."

"I have brothers and I would hate them to be accused of something they did not do, but there must be a way of having a fairer trial. There must be a better system."

Debbie is not the woman's real name.



Debbie was scared during the trial: "It was like being raped again"

Rui Xavier

Downing St denies blocking Branson honour

By ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

THE Prime Minister's office yesterday denied that it had blocked William Hague's nomination of Richard Branson for a knighthood.

A Downing Street spokesman said that while nominations came from a wide variety of sources, and No 10 would not normally comment on honours decisions, it was untrue to say that a knighthood for Mr Branson had been blocked. Tony Blair, it was said, had the greatest respect for Mr Branson, and to suggest, as a Sunday newspaper had done, that an honour had in any way been blackballed was "total and utter rubbish".

It appears that Mr Hague made at least three nominations for knighthoods soon after he was elected Conservative leader last year, and three have so far failed to score.

That does not mean, however, that Mr Branson, who was allegedly on the Hague list, will not be in the New Year's Honours, or, indeed, that he might not then get a life peerage.

It is also possible, though more remotely, that he is one of the two dozen people who refused to take a place in Saturday's list. But if that is not the case, and he was nominated and did not make it, he was in the company of about 9,000 others.

The two other names who are known to have been included in Mr Hague's nominations were Bernie Ecclestone, of Formula One and firm Labour donation fame, and an Australian, Ron Walker, who served for a time as the Conservative Party's successful foreign treasurer.

Mr Ecclestone's knighthood would have come to grief on the furore caused by his Labour donation and the link drawn between that cash gift and the Government's vacillation over tobacco sponsorship of Formula One racing.

Mr Walker's proposed knighthood was more curious, because Mr Hague's official spokesman denied all knowledge of him, adding for good measure that he had never served as a Conservative Party treasurer, even though his name was listed as such on official party fund-raiser's notepaper obtained by The Independent.

SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is

the very problem you want to discuss.

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Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

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Budding rock stars have forced the Government into a U-turn by gaining exemption from welfare-to-work, a move dubbed as 'rock-n-dole' in Whitehall Bill Fleming

Garage bands to get dole

HUNDREDS OF unknown garage bands have succeeded where the Rolling Stones have failed. They have forced the Government into a public climb-down over its welfare-to-work scheme by insisting that they should not be denied benefit if they do not sign up for a "proper job".

The move, already being dubbed "rock-n-dole" by Whitehall insiders, will be announced today by the employment minister, Andrew Smith, at a meeting of the Music Industry Forum, the Government's task force on creativity, set up by the culture secretary Chris Smith. So, although Britain's biggest

BY CLARE GARNER

bands have failed to persuade Tony Blair to modify his new tax laws which penalise them, the nation's wannabe pop stars have been exempted from his welfare-to-work scheme which requires all 18 to 21-year-olds unemployed for six months or more to join a welfare-to-work scheme.

Instead, they will receive career guidance from specially appointed local advisers who will help them to move from benefit into careers in the music business.

The Government climbdown follows a torrent of criticism from Mr Blair's buddies in the

music industry which has been damaging to the "Cool Britannia" image.

Alan McGee, a member of the Music Industry Forum and owner of Creation Records, Oasis's label, claimed that the welfare-to-work scheme would rob Britain of potential rock superstars by denying them time to rehearse and establish their careers.

"Bands like Oasis make millions for this country in export sales and tax but they began like almost every other band, rehearsing hard and slogging up and down motorways in a Transit van to play gigs to half a dozen people," he said earlier

this year. "If we want the benefits that music brings - the money, the cultural diversity, the respect from overseas - we have to allow the musicians to eat."

Mark Fisher, MP for Stoke-on-Trent Central and Labour's arts minister, spoke of the difficulty of introducing welfare reforms while nurturing creative talent.

He used as an example his stepson - lead singer with an emerging indie rock group called the Longpigs - who lived off unemployment benefit and government schemes for eight years while developing his music.

He said: "There is undoubtedly a difficulty in that a lot of bands struggle for a long time and have benefited from being able to claim benefit."

Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker was among a number of Cool Britannia figures who added to pressure on the government's welfare policy by branding New Labour "very disappointing" and attacked its benefits policy.

He said: "This is worse than if the Tories got in, because you would expect it from the Tories."

Mr Blair's change of heart will provoke one immediate question: how can youngsters

claiming dole money and professing to be practising actually prove that they are serious about becoming musicians?

Mr Smith insists that the special exemption will only apply to unemployed youngsters who show "real commitment" and wants the music industry to advise civil servants on how to spot genuine talent so help can be given. Applicants will be expected to show a record of participation in school orchestras, plays or amateur dramatics.

It will not be long before Mr Blair, who used to play in a band called Ugly Rumours, is invited to a benefit gig.

Bankers set to take the millions

TODAY the staff at the world's most profitable investment bank will learn if they are about to become rich beyond most people's wildest dreams.

In style and at an hour that New York considers normal, Hank Paulson and Jon Corzine, the co-chairmen of Goldman Sachs, will announce how the company's senior partners have voted in a secret ballot on whether to float their company and pay themselves between £20m and £100m each. Mr Corzine's more generous share of the spoils, however, will be in the region of £1bn.

The announcement will be broadcast on video screens around the company at 7.30am New York time.

It could be a scene straight out of *Bonfire of the Vanities*, Tom Wolfe's novel of yuppie greed and frenetic lifestyles. Wolfe, no doubt, could have made a hilarious chapter out of the debate that the 190 partners of the Wall Street investment bankers conducted at a two-day meeting over the weekend: agonising over whether to bite the bullet and take the cash.

Wolfe called his workaholic millionaires of the money market the "masters of the universe". The masters of the universe at Goldman Sachs live the part to a degree. One week's annual leave is the norm for a graduate trainee, as is global travel at an hour's notice: offices are understaffed so that people work harder and the bonuses are bigger; relationships are fraught - it is a Goldman Sachs joke that employees learn how to conceive children by fax, the only form of communication many of them have with their wives.

But these masters of the universe also depart from the stereotype in striking ways. For a start some of the soon to be stinking rich partners of this Wall Street investment bankers are British.

Most notably, Gavyn Davies, the company's chief economist, whose wife, Sue Nye, runs Gordon Brown's private office. Asked by *The Independent* (for which he writes a column)

BY DAVID LISTER, VANESSA THORPE AND SUZANNA CHAMBERS

whether the partners were going to get the money, he said: "We are under strict instructions not to speak to anyone." Theresa Miller belongs to what Goldman Sachs calls "the marriage layer" - the 210 managing directors below partner level but likely to share in the payout. Born in Detroit, she is now a naturalised Brit, earning even more than her husband, the former *Sunday Times* journalist Jonathan Miller.

Simon Robertson, set to make £60m, is the former chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. The old Etonian joined Goldman last year - some 30 years after he spent a nine-month secondment at the bank as a young financier.

Peter Sutherland, chairman of Goldman Sachs International, can expect shares of up to £60m if there is a flotation.

Though cynics might not credit it, there were arguments against taking the money during the meeting, at a conference centre in New York State. Those partners who opposed the plan to float suspected that Goldman Sachs' culture of staff loyalty, dedication and adherence to pure business principles would be compromised.

Goldman Sachs' equity is currently shared between 190 partners, 150 limited partners (mostly retired partners), and a number of institutions. There are also 210 managing directors who are not partners but who are now very much in the mind of Jon Corzine. Aside from arguing that Goldman has a better chance of competitive success on the stock market, he is also said to believe that flotation payouts should be used to spread wealth more widely through the company.

Not everyone is impressed by the plan. Gerry Holtham, director of the Institute for Public Policy Research and a former investment banker, said: "It looks like just a way to create a payout for the partners."

Creator of shirking-class icon Andy Capp dies, aged 81

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

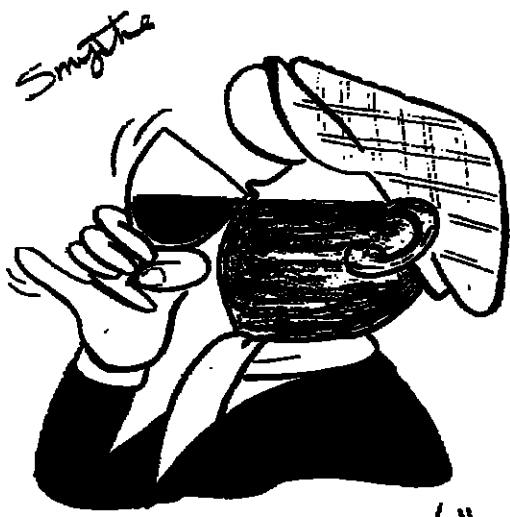
REG SMYTHE, creator of the ultimate working-class comic-strip hero Andy Capp, has died from cancer aged 81.

Though the artist kept a low profile and worked from his home in Hartlepool until his death, Andy Capp found fame all over the world with his ball-mark cloth cap, braces and chauvinism.

The cartoonist once said he believed that the character's popularity lay in the eternal power struggle between man and woman.

He modelled some of Capp's character on his father, and drew on his mother Florence for Flo, Andy's wife.

Though Andy Capp was an instant success, he started life as a violent character who beat up his wife. Smythe regretted this and turned their relationship into one more like that between mother and child, making Capp shorter and Flo more buxom. The famous fag end which was a permanent fixture on Andy's lip disap-



Andy Capp - appeared in 1,700 newspapers worldwide

peared at about the same time that Smythe gave up smoking. Transcending its working-class theme, the cartoon has been sold to 1,700 newspapers

worldwide since it was first printed in the *Daily Mirror's* northern edition in 1957.

The popularity of a character who lived to drink beer and

avoid work at all costs seemed to know no bounds.

In Sweden they call him Tuffa Viktor, in France he's Andre Chapeau, in Italy Angelo Capello and in Germany Willi Wakker.

In Britain, Andy Capp became the subject of a stage musical and a television series and in the United States he even had his own fan club.

Smythe once said of Andy Capp: "He was just there waiting: the next-door neighbour, the bloke in the local... Andy Capps are all over the place."

After the artist's death on Saturday, Ken Layson, the *Mirror's* cartoon editor, said: "He was a one-off. Reg was so prolific, there is at least a year's supply of cartoons left... He will be sadly missed all over the world, but especially in the North-east where he was a major celebrity."

Mr Layson said that the money he made from syndication made him a "rich man". Smythe leaves a wife, Jean. It was his second marriage. His first wife, Vera, died last year.

Manchester rents boom

THE REBUILDING of Manchester's city centre has been so successful, after the damage caused by an IRA bomb two years, that shop rents have risen faster than almost anywhere else in Britain.

Only London's West End has performed better over the last three years, according to chartered surveyor Donaldsons.

Its research, based on figures from the Investment Property Databank, showed

that Manchester has seen the second highest rental growth in that time, followed by Edinburgh and Bolton.

The UK average rental value increase of 3.7 per cent over three years was bettered by 29 cities, among them Falkirk, Ipswich, Middlesbrough, Sheffield, and Swansea.

But Donaldsons also expects rental value increases to start to fall soon, as the consumer boom tails off.

TREVOR PHILLIPS

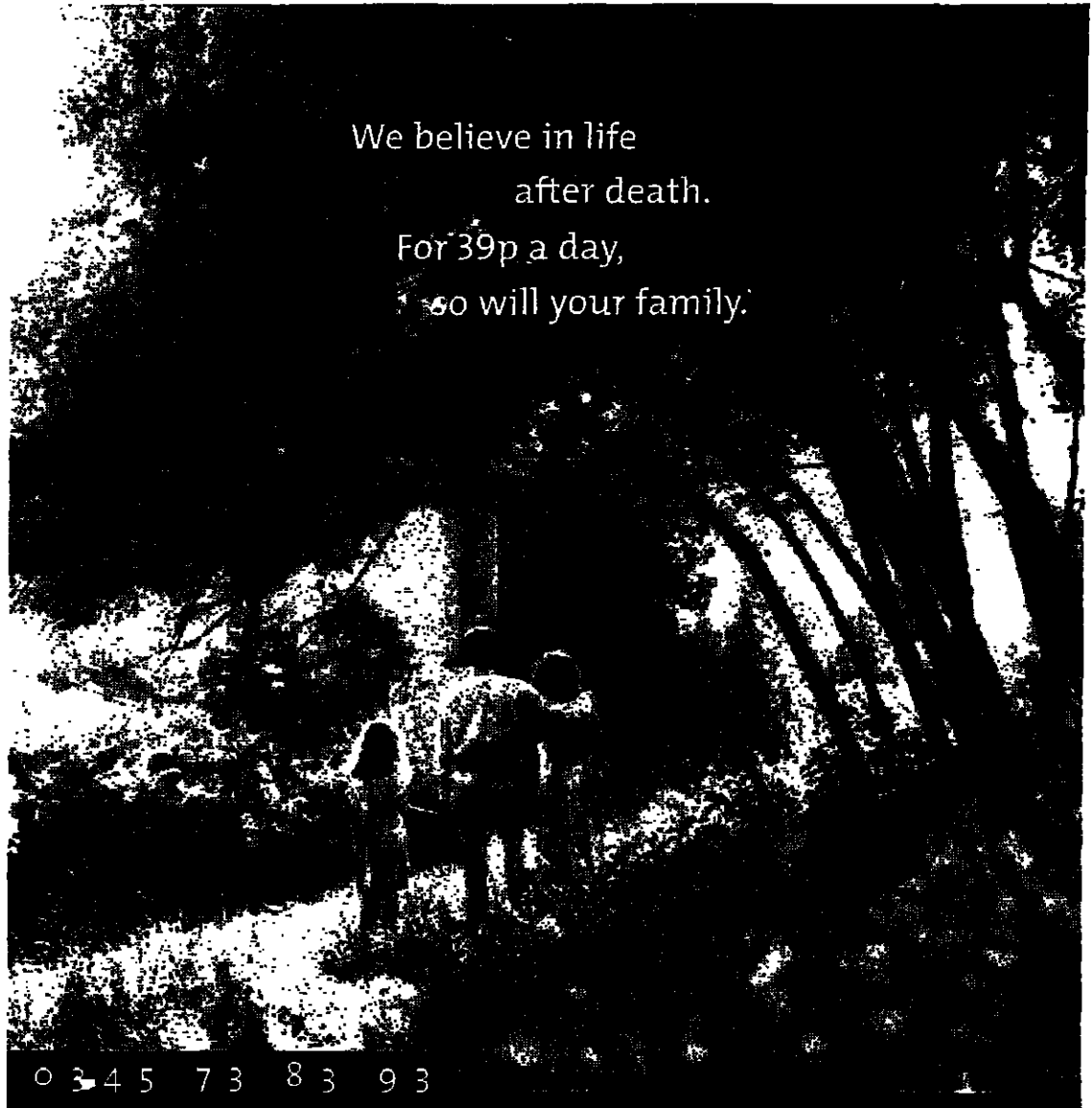
'The lesson of Turin, of Glasgow, of Munich, is that Europe will almost certainly destroy the nation-state.'

THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

Some People sail around the world for £30 or less

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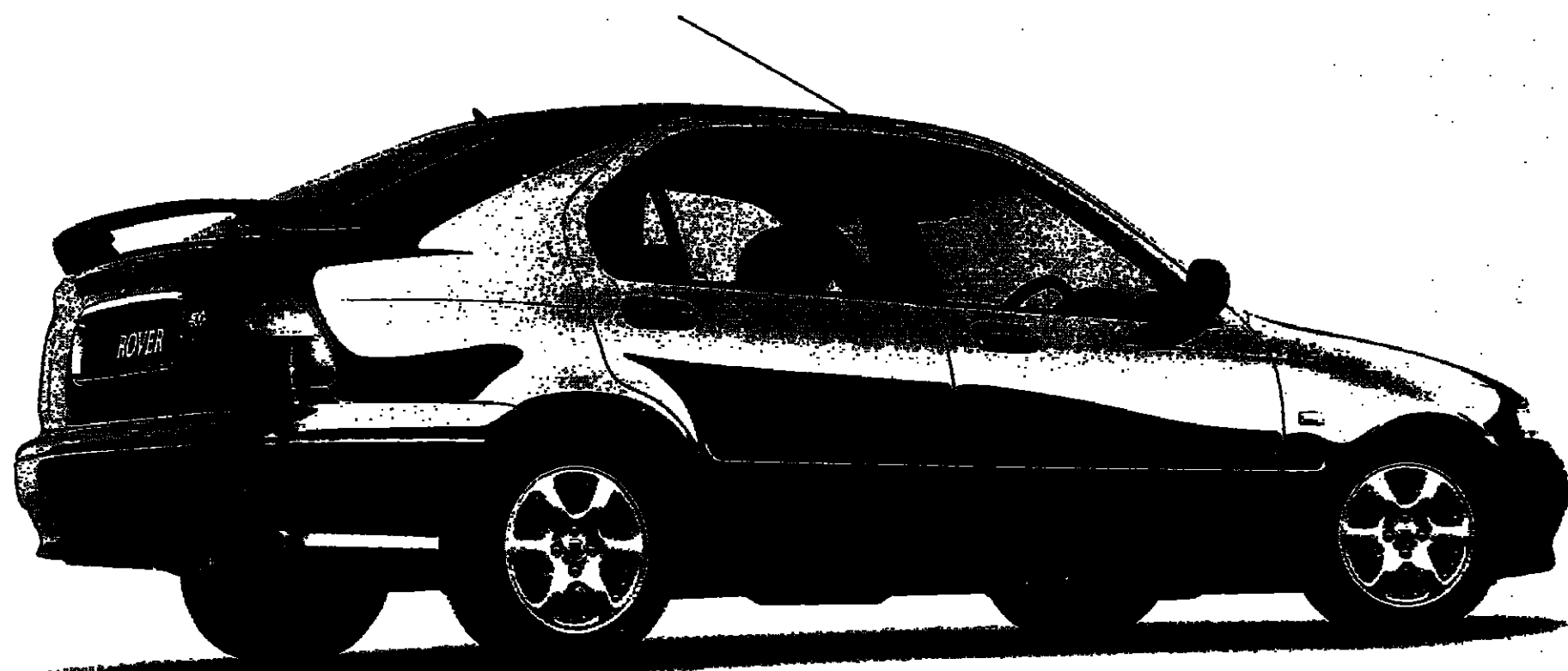
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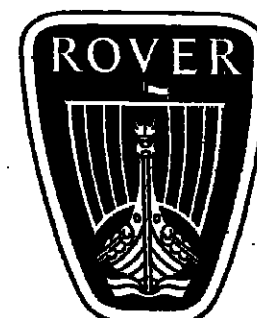


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هكذا من الأصل

Suspended in October over allegations of misconduct made by two of his senior officers. Complaints involve allegations that he intervened over a speeding ticket issued to a county councillor, and the awarding of contracts for research projects without approval of the police authority.

Fred Broughton, president of the Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, added: "The core of the problem is that chief officers spend too much time acting like managing directors of a large company. More operational leadership is what is needed."

Police chiefs argue that the establishment of more independent police authorities, the work of government inspectors and the introduction of performance indicators, have made them more accountable than ever before.

have an impact on staff in sensitive positions, such as political reporters, who could be transferred to another job if they stood for election.

The move is said to have been triggered by the furore about the reporter Ben Bradshaw standing for a seat in Exeter in the last general election.

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Education standards: The school condemned last year as Britain's worst wins a vote of confidence from parents

The Ridings gets back its good name

PARENTS are flocking to send their children to the school branded the worst in Britain just 18 months ago.

More than 120 parents made the Ridings school in Halifax their first choice in a remarkable vote of confidence in the teachers who have turned the school around.

Last year, just 33 families made the school the first choice for their children in the month after the Ridings became the most notorious of Britain's failing schools.

Inspectors were called in during October 1996 after the school sank into chaos, following the merger of two rival secondary moderns the previous year.

Truancy and bad behaviour were rife. The school had to close for several days after demands that around 60 children be expelled. Karen Stansfield, then headteacher, resigned because she could no longer cope with the situation.

Last summer, in the wake of the crisis, just six per cent of pupils left with five or more good GCSEs.

Today, everything has changed and parents are putting their trust in the school once more. Ridings head Anna White is expecting 130 11-year-olds to start in September - more than 20 per cent more than last September's intake of 97 and more than enough to secure the school's longer term future. Every new child will bring in funding of £1,200.

The Ridings has invested £1.3 million in a new sports hall, and more in new science labs and an arts block.

Mrs White has brought in a primary school teacher to teach children who cannot read, and runs a school-wide literacy hour to help the 40 per cent of children who lag behind in their reading.

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

She hopes this year's GCSE results will be better and expects inspectors to lift the school's failing status in the next few months. From September the school will have a 62-strong sixth form.

Mrs White said: "I have made one permanent exclusion in the 18 months I have been here. Fixed-term exclusions have fallen by 50 per cent since the inspectors came, but they are still running high. We are changing what we offer students and attendance is rising."

"When parents visit the school, they say they are amazed there is no graffiti and



The Ridings: turned around in 18 months

by how quiet it is. I know what they mean - we are a normal school now."

Mrs White was brought in as associate headteacher under the so-called "super-head" Peter Clark, who was drafted in to the Ridings to restore order when crisis overwhelmed the school.

Now Mr Clark has gone, Mrs White's regime is under constant watch from Her Majesty's Inspectorate. The school has had many visits from the inspectors in the past 18 months, but after the latest inspection watchdogs declared

that all lessons were now satisfactory at the least.

Mrs White said: "They are picking up the fact that the teaching has improved considerably, although the children's learning still needs to get better. The inspectors will come again on 6 July and we are hopeful we can continue to make progress."

The children are no longer voting with their feet to stay away. Attendance at the school was running at just 73 per cent 18 months ago. The figure is now 82 per cent.

The Ridings is making progress with its most important task - teaching. When Mrs White arrived at the school, 40 per cent of pupils had not reached the expected reading standard for their age. Many had reading ages of six or seven. Others fell off the bottom of the scale. Now the reading standard of 70 per cent of pupils is up to scratch.

Local primary schools are now prepared to support the Ridings in its battle for a future. Jean Rhind, headteacher at the nearby Lee Mount school, said parents had decided to stick by the Ridings.

"Parents want to support their local school," she said. "The problems put the whole future of the school in jeopardy, but now the whole school is obviously improving."

Most of the children at nearby Moorside Junior School are going to the Ridings in September. Headteacher Shirley Stoker said: "Our children are keen to go. A lot of our children's parents went to the Ridings themselves and there is a strong community in this area, but it's plain that the school has moved forward."

"The local community wants it right, and the vast majority of parents wants the Ridings to succeed," she added.



Lynn Steele doing up her son Richard's tie; he starts at the Ridings School, Halifax, in September John Angerson

Getting ready to start afresh

BY BEN RUSSELL

RICHARD STEELE is looking forward to his first day at the Ridings School in September.

His parents "looked" at schools across Halifax when they were deciding where to send their son, aged 10, for his secondary education.

Two schools seemed suitable, although they were a bus ride away from the Steeles' home on the Denfield estate near the Ridings. But they chose the Ridings instead, despite its status as a failing school.

Richard's mother, Lynn, said the school would not have been their choice a year ago. Her 15-year-old daughter, Keeley, took her GCSEs at the Ridings last year, and lived through the worst period in the school's history.

But now, Mrs Steele said, things have changed. "We looked at other schools for Richard, but when we thought about it, we decided the Ridings was going to be an up-and-coming school."

Mrs Steele is not alone. Half of Richard's class at Lee Mount Junior School nearby will be off to start at the Ridings after the summer.

"The school is very friendly now, although I must say it always was when my other children went there," Mrs Steele said. "I must be honest though that a year ago I did not want my son to go there."

"The main fear was whether he would have got a good education because of what was going on. We didn't even know whether the school was going to close down."

"It's all changed now and the school is getting so much money. There are a lot of improvements and the school is really coming on. The school had a show and it was all booked out."

"But the biggest change is the good write-up the school gets when people write to the papers here."

"Richard is really looking forward to it. We have faith."

IN BRIEF

Doctor plunges to his death as gyrocopter crashes in village

A FAMILY doctor plunged 300 feet to his death when his home-made gyrocopter went out of control.

Dr Alasdair Barden, a well-known GP and political activist on the Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles, died instantly when the tiny machine came down on Saturday, narrowly missing a housing estate. The aircraft crashed in the village where Dr Barden lived with his wife Donna and two children, Donald, four, and Charles, seven months. It is thought the gyrocopter's engine may have stalled.

Unions dismayed at wage move

UNIONS yesterday voiced dismay at reports that the Prime Minister has decided to support a watering down of one of the key recommendations on a minimum wage.

Tony Blair is thought to have backed the Chancellor who believes the recommended rate of £3.20 an hour for 18- to 21-year-olds should be cut to £3 an hour.

The Chancellor is believed to be worried about the impact of a minimum wage on the Government's flagship New Deal jobs programme.

Thousands denied homes chance

TENS OF thousands of people are being denied the chance of a home by local authorities, many for no good reason according to new research published today by the housing charity Shelter.

Nearly four times as many people were excluded from local authority housing lists in 1997/8 as in the previous year, with Shelter estimating that across Britain as many as 200,000 households may have been denied a local authority home.

Viagra boosts impotence helpline

A HELPLINE set up to provide confidential advice to impotent men has been inundated with calls since Viagra brought the problem into the open.

In the first week of May alone the Impotence Association helpline received more than 3,000 calls - almost a quarter of the total for 1997. The wonderdrug is said to make a man in his 60s feel 18 again. The Impotence Association helpline is on 0181 767 7791.

Italians release jailed Briton

A BRITISH woman who had links with a Mafia family has been freed from prison in Italy, her solicitor said yesterday.

Marisa Merico, 27, from Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, Lancashire, served three years in the UK for money-laundering offences before she was extradited to Italy a year ago and sentenced to six years on similar charges. But an appeal was lodged on legal grounds and Appeal Court judges in Rome released her on Friday.

Victory for sacked brewery staff

TWELVE brewery workers sacked for drinking beer at work were yesterday waiting to find out how much compensation they will be awarded after winning a case for unfair dismissal. They were caught by surveillance cameras at Samuel Smith's brewery in Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, but told an industrial tribunal in Leeds they thought having a couple of drinks at work was a tradition.

Lucky six share lottery £7m win

SIX TICKET-holders won Saturday's £7m National Lottery jackpot. Each winner will receive £1,171,468 after matching all six numbers. The winning numbers were 2, 7, 10, 15, 27 and 45. The bonus number was 31.

Woman tops shortlist for medical chief

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

THE TOUGHEST medical job in Britain is about to become vacant - and for the first time it could be filled by a woman.

Dr Sheila Adam, a senior member of the NHS executive, is shortlisted for the post of government chief medical officer. The incumbent, Sir Kenneth Calman, retires in September.

The job, once described by Sir Kenneth as the "epicentre of stress", carries a starting salary of £110,000.

It involves advising the Government on all aspects of public health, including how to deal with scares such as the BSE crisis, and requires someone who combines leadership and diplomatic skills with sufficient independence of mind to challenge ministers.

Dr Adam, a former director of public health for North Thames, is thought to have all three attributes.

She is described in a recent article in the *British Medical Journal* as having a "modern feel", as having won plaudits for her careful handling of changes to mental health services and as someone who would make a "feisty" chief medical officer. Colleagues describe her as "passionate" about public health and her youthful dabbling in the left-wing Medical Practitioners Union could endear her to Old Labour ministers such as Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health.

But her greatest advantage may be her gender. A woman in the top post in medicine would



Sheila Adam, who is in line to be chief medical officer

help the drive to get more women into senior positions in the public sector.

She faces strong competition. Professor Liam Donaldson, widely tipped as the favourite, is the director of the Northern and Yorkshire NHS region. He is a high-flyer with the man-darin qualities necessary to thrive in the civil service.

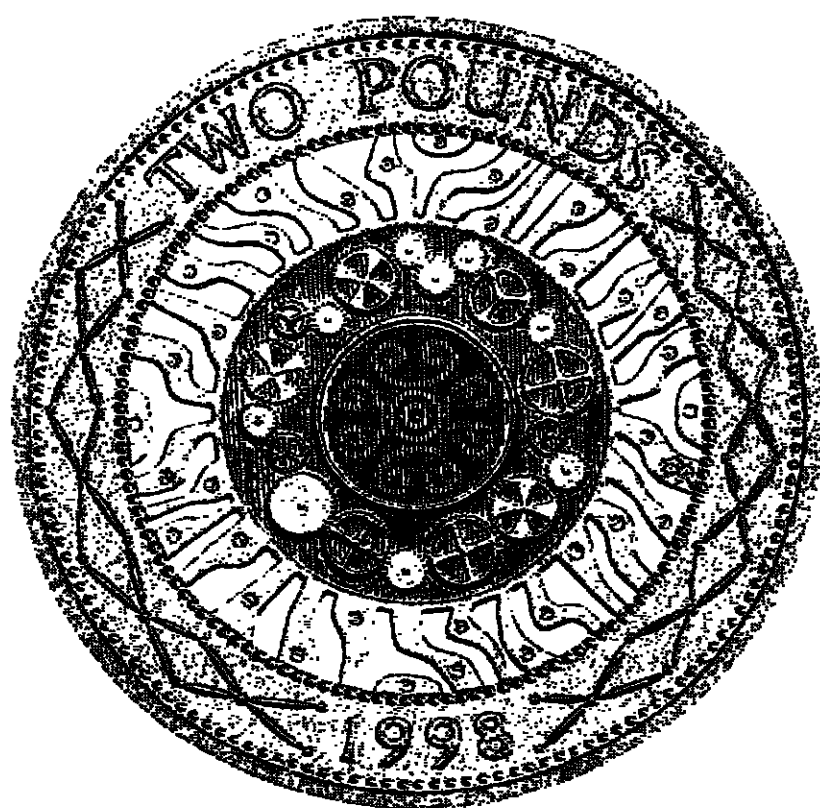
He is seen as having the gravitas for the job - a quality that Dr Adam may lack - but his "slightly severe attitude" to the BML could count against him. Dr Graham Winyard, also an NHS executive insider and Dr Adam's boss as director of the health services directorate, has extensive experience of the department of health and is seen as a capable manager.

The outsider is seen as Professor Stephen Holgate, professor of immunopharmacology at the University of Southampton.

ANNE MCELVOY

"There are more ways of creating representative bodies than to vote them into existence"

MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3



At last, the change you've been waiting for. The new £2 coin will be phased in gradually from June 15th. With fewer coins to carry it will be more convenient, and with its unique bi-coloured design, it will certainly be distinctive. In fact, whichever way you look at it, you can't lose.



هللا من الاصل

Climbers roped in to help finish off the Dome

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Science and Technology Editor

THE CONSTRUCTION industry is turning to rock and mountain climbers in the search for builders happy to work suspended high above the ground on complex construction projects.

John Batty, marketing director of CAN Ltd, a construction firm based in Chesterfield, put adverts on notice boards at indoor climbing walls in Sheffield, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow and London - and the responses poured in.

For if there's one thing that rock climbers know about, it's using ropes to stay alive, and coping with heights. And if there's another thing they're keen on, it's using their expertise from their favourite pastime to earn money. The same is true for cavers and potholers, who also responded in large numbers to Batty's ads.

The roof of the Millennium Dome is at present crawling with people whose hobby is climbing or caving. Right now they're employed by CAN, earning more than £100 per day, six or seven days a week, as the construction tries to meet its deadline at the end of this month.

London is now a prime location for "rope access" jobs. Among them are the Jubilee Line construction, and regular work at Westminster cleaning the face on the clock tower that contains Big Ben.

Rope access has become a thriving industry, offering a regular money earner for keen climbers and cavers; it's a better-paid and more interesting alternative to the odd jobs they might otherwise be doing and they can use the cash to fund expeditions.

Among them is Simon Yates, well-known for his mountaineering exploits around the world. He worked on the Millennium Dome between January and March of this year. "I was getting £130 per day plus bonuses, working seven days a week," he recalls. "If you can find fairly well-paid work then you don't

have to spend so much time doing it to save up some cash. A few months on the Dome will pay for a good trip anywhere - summer in the Alps, or climbing in France."

Many climbers are delighted to find that they can get paid for indulging their passion. In the 1980s, unemployment benefit funded a generation of eager climbers in cities such as Sheffield. But changes in benefit rules and the availability

of well-paid work has proved too tempting for most. As a result, rope access jobs have almost entirely replaced the climbers' "dole culture".

The transition is easy. "It's pretty straightforward really," said one climber last week. "You need a certificate, so you go on a five-day course costing £270 and take a test at the end. Pass that and you can be up on the roof the next day."

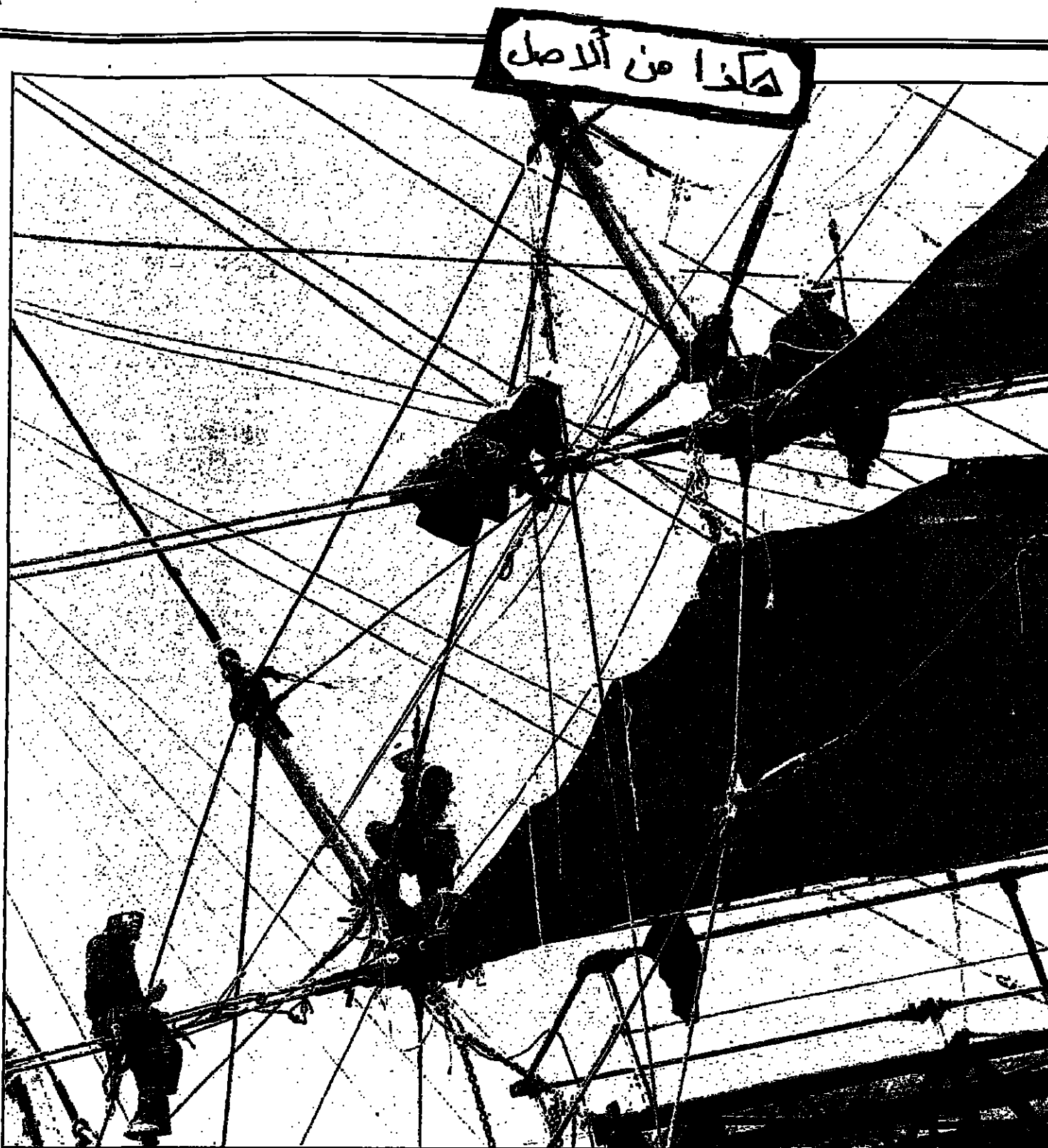
But having qualified, climbers

can work 7am to 9pm days. Rain is not sufficient reason to stop; only wind, and even then only if it is above 25 mph. Yates recalls it as a scary experience. "The wind really whips up along the Thames. We were just hanging off ropes at the top of those masts. It was very exposed and windy." As the masts are nearly 100 metres above the ground, that is not surprising.

But Yates also suspects that the

boom times can't last. He saw the business shrink as the building boom of the 1980s gave way to bust. "Now there are a lot of little companies, so the competition is fierce, and that's pushing down wages."

But even if chill winds do blow through the construction industry, it won't trouble the climbers. There'll always be someone who needs somebody prepared to hang about on a rope.



Climbers on contract at the Millennium Dome, east London, indulge their passion and get paid for it

Jim Burn

Warnings on killer 'ignored by police'

By GLENDA COOPER

CARE PROFESSIONALS had been warned that a paranoid schizophrenic was "capable of murder" only a month before he battered a man to death in a prison cell, according to a damning social services inquiry report due to be published today.

Richard Linford injured Christopher Edwards so badly that the dead man had to be identified by dental records after the two men were put into a cell together in Chelmsford prison to free up another room.

The report into the care arrangements for Linford, heavily criticised the police, the prison service and the North Essex Health Authority. It notes that a month before the fatal attack Richard Linford was judged "capable of murder" and described as "the most intimidating patient" one doctor had ever encountered at a case conference attended by 10 key professionals, including the police and consultants.

On 29 November 1994, 30-year-old Mr Edwards, an honours graduate who spoke several languages but had been diagnosed with psychiatric problems, was taken to Chelmsford after he accosted a woman in the street.

Half an hour after he arrived, Linford was brought in. He had been fighting and causing trouble earlier that day and was initially considered unfit to be housed with other inmates. He had also attacked two police officers in Chelmsford when he was arrested and punched one during finger-printing. It took four of them simply to handcuff him.

Yet one hour after he arrived at the prison Linford was moved in with Mr Edwards. At first the two men seemed to be getting on, but at about 1am a prison officer heard a disturbance in the cell and raised the alarm. Linford had knocked Mr Ed-

wards to the ground then jumped repeatedly on his head, crushing his skull beyond recognition.

Linford was later sent to Rampton hospital "without limit of time" after admitting manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Paul Edwards, Christopher's father, is campaigning to change the law covering the treatment of mentally ill patients. "There is a long history of failures of communication between all the agencies, health and criminal justice, as all the other reports have shown," he said.

"If these young men could have got proper treatment - because neither of them had any insight into their illness - then Christopher would not have lost his life and Richard would not have lost his liberty."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of Sane, said that the charity had seen evidence that noted how potentially dangerous Linford was. "It is quite unforgivable that having a case conference involving all the people caring for Richard Linford, including the police, and despite the fact a doctor said he was capable of murder, it was decided no further case conference would be held," she said. "He was placed in a prison cell with another mentally ill young man arrested on a minor offence of importing a woman in the street. Both needed hospital care not a prison cell."

Sane is publishing an analysis of homicide inquiries involving mentally ill people which concludes that one in three deaths was either predictable or preventable. In half of the cases studied authorities failed to consult families or carers or heed their warnings.

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Jury out on Blair's European progress

HOW was it for you, Mr President? As Tony Blair's six-month tenure as President of the European Council of Ministers draws to an end with a summit in Cardiff beginning today, views on how it went are mixed.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said last week a successful summit would mark a successful presidency, but some commentators suggested wryly that what had been a dodgy presidency might be followed by an uncomfortable summit.

As the meeting opens today, Blair will claim there have been real achievements in the last six months in target areas such as the environment and economic control. The presidency launched the single currency, extended the single market and worked on development of a more flexible labour market, he claims.

But what do the people really think? Was it good for them, a trawl of opinion-formers, pressure groups and MEPs by the Independent evinced a resounding "maybe".

In the "no" camp, not surprisingly, was the leader of the Conservative group of MEPs, David McMillan-Scott.

Informed opinion was unimpressed by Blair's performance, he said. "The European Parliament is not an enthusiastic supporter of the British presidency. The spin-doctoring in the presentation of a mid-term achievement programme was laughed at."

Some Labour members were equally unenthusiastic, and the more loyal among the "yes" group among MEPs from European countries.

John Coates, who was recently expelled from the European Parliamentary Labour Party, was not complimentary. "I suppose they've been on their best behaviour in the presidency."

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

The thought of what they would have done if they'd been on their worst behaviour is enough to make me come out in a rash," he said.

Wayne David, the leader of the Labour group, was happier. Britain had made progress on jobs, on the single market, on the Euro and on enlargement as well as on the development of an ethical foreign policy, he said.

"Robin Cook said himself in the European Parliament that he didn't get his colleagues in the Council of Ministers to agree to the whole loaf but he got them to agree to half the loaf and progress has been made," he said.

Campaigners on arms control have criticised Mr Cook's initiative, saying the system is still opaque and there are still no controls on arms dealers and mercenaries who operate from the European Union. Ian Bray of Oxfam gave a muted cheer for the Mr Cook's efforts. "It's a vital first step but there's a long way to go before we get a restrictive and binding code," he said.

Trade unionists had mixed views. While the European TUC was critical, saying jobs were more important than a flexible labour market, Ken Jackson of the engineering union AEEU was delighted. "The British presidency set the pace for Europe by putting employability, flexibility and skills at the top of the agenda," he said.

Environmentalists were delighted that their cause was one of the stated priorities, but had only qualified praise for the results. Tony Juniper, policy and campaigns director of Friends of the Earth, said more progress could have been made on emissions targets.

Leading article.
Review, page 3



Lord Hacking at his London home yesterday. In changing his allegiance, the Tory peer says he has chosen policy over party. Andrew Burnham

Tory peer crosses the floor to take seat on Labour benches

ANOTHER leading Conservative crosses the floor of Parliament to join Tony Blair's Labour Party today.

Lord Hacking, who has been a Tory hereditary peer since 1971, says in a letter to *The Independent* today that his move has been prompted by changes in Conservative and Labour policies on penal affairs and Europe.

"The choice is party or policy," Lord Hacking, 60, says in a moving letter that will strike a chord with many Conservatives. "Difficult though it is, I believe the only honest choice is one of policy."

With the Prime Minister opening the final summit of his

BY ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

European presidency in Cardiff today, the latest Tory scalp will come as welcome evidence of Labour's positive attitude towards the European Union - and William Hague's steady drift into Euro-scepticism.

Lord Hacking, a partner in the London law firm, Sonnenschein, says that since the Tories lost office last year, they have been turning away from established policy towards the EU.

"It was my party who negotiated our entry into the EEC. It was my party who negotiated and signed the Single European Act in which we ex-

pressly agreed the convergence policies for bringing into being the single currency. It was my party who negotiated and signed the Maastricht treaty in which we expressly agreed the establishment of economic and monetary union, including the single currency."

Now, he says, Mr Hague talks of a single currency as "the economic equivalent of a burning building with no exits". Far from seeking to be at the heart of Europe, he adds, "we are now seeking to be apart from it".

Lord Hacking has similar disquiet about the direction of Tory policy on law and order. "Much has changed in the Conservative Party - as it has in the

Labour Party - during my adult life," he says. "Recent changes in my party have not been to the good. At the end of its period of office, just over a year ago, we had a Conservative government which was standing on its head its own established penal policy. Claims by the then Home Secretary that 'prison works' and the introduction of measures which imposed mandatory sentencing on the judiciary were populist and unworthy."

Examining the dilemma faced by all politicians in such circumstances, Lord Hacking says he can either stay with the Tories and try to work for a restoration of old commitments, or join Labour, already

committed to a strong but compassionate penal policy and a determination to make the EU work from within.

"On Monday," he says, "I will be 'crossing over' the floor of the Chamber of the House of Lords from the Conservative benches to the Labour benches."

As with all those who have made the same move in recent years, Lord Hacking says he leaves in sorrow. Having belonged to the Conservative Party for the past 40 years, he will be leaving friends behind. "I realise I will be causing upset," he says. But the growing frequency of the act measures the change in both parties. Letters, Review, page 2

Union leader attacks reform

BY BARBARA CLEMENT
Labour Editor

TONY BLAIR'S vision of a new electoral system for Britain comes under fire today from one of his closest allies in the union movement.

Ken Jackson, leader of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, will today accuse the Prime Minister and his advisers of harbouring a "hidden agenda" to break the link between unions and the Labour Party.

Mr Jackson will launch a campaign throughout the Labour movement aimed at undermining the New Labour project of electoral reform to which Mr Blair and Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, committed themselves last week.

The engineering union leader will tell delegates to the AEU's biennial industrial conference that a small group of London-based New Labour activists are hell-bent on creating a Social Democratic Party Mark II.

It is understood that this is a reference to Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, and his supporters.

Mr Jackson believes the aim is to marginalise unions by creating a coalition involving Liberal Democrats and Left-wing Tories.

His campaign comes ahead of a report from the Electoral Reform Commission, created by Mr Blair and chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, one of the creators of the SDP.

In a statement, Mr Jackson will tell his union today: "For some in New Labour, proportional representation is the hammer to smash the union link. It is the hidden agenda."

He will say it is an attempt by a small band of New Labour devotees to "split apart the Labour family".

"PR will help them build a political dream of a new SDP," he said. "Our union helped to create New Labour and we will fight against proportional representation. The union link is Labour's link with working people."

THIS WEEK IN PARLIAMENT



TODAY

Commons
Home Office questions.
Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, committee.
Short debate on distribution of European Union structural funds in the UK.

Lords

Building Regulations (Energy Rating Information) (Amendment) Bill, committee.
Government of Wales Bill, committee.
National Minimum Wage Bill, committee.
Debate on building rules in Scotland relating to fire.

TUESDAY 16 JUNE

Commons

Foreign Office questions.
Debate opened by Tories on National Health Service waiting lists. Debate opened by Tories on "crisis in Scottish local government".
Council Tax Limitation Derbyshire County Council (Maximum Amount) Order.
Short debate on A27: Sompotting to Shoreham.

Lords

School Standards and Framework Bill, committee.
Debate on problems of recruitment and retention of nurses in the National Health Service.

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

Commons

Sits at 9.30am for backbench select committee report debates on: Disability living allowance; Peace operations in Bosnia. Followed by backbench debates on: Impact of millennium bug on public services; Conservation of rare plants; Food safety enforcement procedures.
At 2.30pm Northern Ireland questions.
3pm questions to the Prime Minister.
Human Rights Bill, committee.
Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, committee.
Short debate on epilepsy.

Lords

Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) (Amendment) Bill, committee.
Scotland Bill, second reading, first day.

THURSDAY 18 JUNE

Commons

Trade and Industry questions.
Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, remaining stages.
Church of England (National Institutions) Measure.
Short debate on closure of civic amenities sites in Northumberland.
Lords
Scotland Bill, second reading, last day.
Debate on report on European Central Bank.
Debate on reviving provincial repertory theatres.

FRIDAY 19 JUNE

Commons

Debate on "enterprising UK - the small business agenda". Short debate on compensation for vaccine-damaged people.

Lords

Alliance and Leicester plc (Group Reorganisation) Bill, third reading. Pesticides Bill, report. Fireworks Bill, report. Public Interest Disclosure Bill, report. Road Traffic Reduction (National Targets) Bill, committee. Debate on moves for Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join Nato.

Conservatives may vote no on Ulster Bill

BY ANTHONY BEVINS

TORY FRONTBENCHERS are threatening an open breach of the bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland after the Tories warned yesterday that they could vote against the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill this week.

Andrew Mackay, the Conservative Northern Ireland spokesman, issued a statement urging the Government to accept amendments for today's committee stage of the legislation, ensuring a tight linkage between the decommissioning of weapons and the release of prisoners.

"It must be a precondition that decommissioning is taking place before prisoners are released," he said. "If the Government refuses to accept the amendments, the people of Northern Ireland will feel cruelly let down."

There was little sign of a Government climb-down being offered yesterday.

A spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office said that while ministers would show "flexibility" towards the amendments, tabled in conjunction with the Ulster Unionists, the Good Friday agreement could not be rewritten, and the legislation already embodied the Prime Minister's pledges on decommissioning and prisoner release. The bottom line for ministers, the spokesman added, hinged on the continuation of a complete and unequivocal cease-fire.

Michael Howard, shadow foreign affairs spokesman, told GMTV's Sunday Programme: "Of course we desperately want to see peace throughout Northern Ireland, but we think that assurances were given about decommissioning and we think there should be links, as the Prime Minister said there would be, between decommissioning and the release of prisoners."

"That's why we've put down

amendments to secure that link and if those amendments are not accepted, then I think we will vote against this Bill on third reading on Thursday."

A Conservative vote against the Government on the amendments tonight, and against the whole Bill on Thursday, would be the first concrete divide between government and opposition on Northern Ireland for many years.

While the Opposition showed little enthusiasm for the groundwork leading up to the Good Friday agreement, they have always pulled up short of outright attack - and they are undoubtedly taking a strong political risk if they undermine the united British approach, and contribute towards a breakdown in the process.

But Mr Howard said yesterday that the concept of releasing recently convicted terrorist prisoners was very difficult for many people, and many victims and their families.

"If we are to accept that," he said, "and we are prepared to accept it in the cause of peace, and in the cause of an agreement on bringing violence to an end in Northern Ireland, then we really must see some progress on decommissioning."

"We can't simply release all these prisoners back to the bombs and the guns and the bullets which they have used with such terrible effect in the past."

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Queensland casts a vote for racism

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS have been thrown into turmoil over the success of One Nation, a populist fringe party which won almost one-quarter of the vote in a Queensland state election on Saturday on a platform of an end to immigration and to welfare for Aborigines.

The result has stunned John Howard, the Australian prime minister, and may force him to ditch plans to call a federal election later this year.

Mr Howard said both his conservatives and the Labor opposition could not ignore One Nation's success. "There are clear lessons to be learnt," he said. "These include the genuine sense of vulnerability felt by many Australians during times of economic and social change."

In a warning to Mr Howard of the battle to come, Pauline Hanson, One Nation's leader, said on Saturday: "I don't think it's hit them yet. I don't think they have a clue."

Mrs Hanson was an independent MP in the federal parliament before founding One Nation in her home state of Queensland last year. She made her move after the Liberal Party, which Mr Howard leads, dropped her as a member because of her statements against non-white minorities.

Voting in the Queensland election was so close that the result may not be known for another week when all votes have been distributed under Australia's preferential system. But it appears One Nation will win 10 seats in Queensland's 89-seat parliament.

It took most of these from the ruling coalition of the Liberal and National parties, which is expected to lose office in the state to the Labor party. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation election computer predicted a Labor majority of three seats.

Even if One Nation does not hold the balance of power, the party's strong overall vote in Queensland has turned Mrs

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney

Hanson, 44, into a force to be reckoned with after being an unheard-of figure two years ago.

The divorced mother of four, who once ran a fish-and-chip shop in the Queensland town of Ipswich, yesterday predicted her party would storm the polls in the federal election, due within nine months.

But opinion polls give One Nation 9 per cent support nationally, compared with the 22



Howard: Election plans thrown into chaos AP

per cent it registered in the Queensland poll.

In conservative Queensland, One Nation's policy mixture of racial bigotry and agrarian socialism struck a chord with farmers and country town-dwellers who have been hit hard by economic decline and feel abandoned by the mainstream parties.

Mrs Hanson preached about taking Australia back to a world in which Australian "battlers" felt secure, a world where jobs were saved for "Australians", not immigrants, millions were not "wasted" on Aboriginal welfare, where country people could keep as many guns as they liked and tariffs were erected to protect farmers from foreign competition.

The Hanson party took almost one-quarter of the state

vote largely because of the disastrous decision by the coalition parties to allocate second-preference votes to One Nation candidates, not Labor. No One Nation candidate was elected merely on primary votes.

For Mr Howard, the Queensland result is ominous. The prime minister was under fire over his failure to publicly repudiate Mrs Hanson's pronouncements on race during her rise to prominence. Then he ignored calls to take a lead and direct coalition preference votes away from One Nation.

His silence on these questions made him look as if he was more interested in picking up votes for his side of politics from a cosy preference distribution deal with One Nation. If so, it backfired spectacularly.

Barry Jones, national president of the Labor Party, said yesterday: "To some extent, the prime minister is the godfather of all this. If he'd taken a more considered position at the beginning, the situation may not have got out of hand."

Only a few weeks ago, Mr Howard had been planning to call a "double dissolution" election for both houses of federal parliament, possibly in August. The Queensland result suggests that if he did so, One Nation could win at least two seats in the Senate, the upper house of federal parliament, and possibly hold the balance of power there.

Legislation in which Mr Howard's government aims to restrict the rights of Aborigines to claim native title over out-back farming lands is already blocked in the Senate, where the government does not have a majority. Mrs Hanson wants these rights ditched completely.

Les Malazar, an Aboriginal leader in Queensland, said of the election result: "It's an absolute disaster for Aboriginal people. In truth, it is also a disaster for Australia. The reconciliation between white and black Australia is going out the window."

كلنا من الواصل



Pauline Hanson (left) and a supporter celebrating the big vote for One Nation

Andrew Meares/Reuters

Taiwan virus spreads

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Taipei

THE DEATH toll from a mystery epidemic which is killing young children in Taiwan is still rising, despite government claims that the worst is over. It now stands at 36, with new fatalities reported every day.

The highly contagious virus may be present in up to half a million people in Taiwan. But so far it has proved fatal only to children under five, who seem to lack the immunity to stop it attacking vital organs.

"The virus has abated and I have repeatedly urged the public not to panic," said Hsu Kwo-hsing, of Taiwan's communicable disease control centre. But other medical sources say that, instead of retreating, the virus is spreading further into northern Taiwan and on to other Asian countries. The authorities in Singapore have already issued an alert.

Because Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, it is denied membership of the World Health Organisation. "We can't communicate with other countries on this," said David Lee, Taiwan's deputy foreign minister. The US Centers for Disease Control, however, has sent three experts to Taiwan.

Refugees flee Bissau

AROUND 1,400 people have sought refuge in the north of Guinea after fleeing fighting in neighbouring Guinea-Bissau.

The prefect of Koundara district, 375 miles north of Guinea's capital Conakry, said that people had been counted at the Kandikka and Sereb-hoidho border posts.

Troops from Senegal and Guinea went to the rescue of President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau after an army revolt broke out in its capital, Bissau, on 7 June.

The rebels control Bissau airport, but there are conflicting claims about whether they still hold Bra military complex in Bissau. The Senegalese army said it had removed the rebels.

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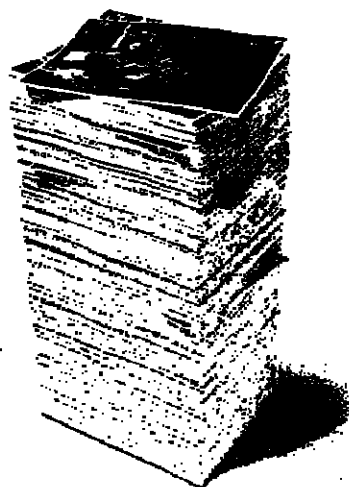
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Murdoch woos Germany's 'Blair'



Rupert Murdoch wants the German market Reuters

RUPERT MURDOCH is about to make a strategic investment in Germany, and not just in the Teutonic blood-and-sex television station he controls there. Mr Murdoch is looking to purchase a commodity in which he has already cornered the market in other parts of the world: politicians.

The tycoon flew into Germany at the weekend, ostensibly to deliver a speech at a media forum in Cologne. The event is organised by Wolfgang Clement, Social Democrat Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia and the closest ally of Gerhard Schröder, who has been called Germany's Blair, and is likely to become Chancellor in September. According to Social Democrat sources, a secret meeting between Mr Murdoch and Mr Schröder had been lined up on the fringes of the forum.

There can be little doubt that the purpose of this encounter is to help oil the wheels of the media machine that is about to roll into Germany. Astutely, Mr Murdoch has concluded that Mr Schröder is worth cultivating.

After his ignominious retreat from Italy, Mr Murdoch is making a second attempt to gain entry into a market that has so far eluded his grasp. Continental Europe is largely Murdoch-free, mainly because the politicians and media élites have successfully barricaded themselves from the buccaneer's incursions.

The European Commission has come close to declaring him Public Enemy Number One, re-

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

garding the Murdoch empire as the monopolistic purveyor of Anglo-Saxon trivia. His most important acquisition on the continent to date is the 49.9 per cent stake in Vox, a flaccid television station whose viewing figures come alive only when its sexually deprived audience switch on after midnight.

Now Mr Murdoch is offering to put Vox on the map. The station, at present enjoyed by 3 per cent of Germans, is to receive a huge cash investment, with the aim of raising its market share to 10 per cent. "If we had unfettered control of Vox then yes - whether it takes DM700m (£340m) or DM900m (£310m), we are willing to do whatever is necessary to make Vox a major force," he told journalists.

To raise the station's profile, Vox is to be given access to Mr Murdoch's Fox Studios, the producers of *Titanic* and the repository of mainstream Hollywood movies, the likes of which have never been shown on the station. There will also be what he called "quality"

news programmes on Vox, though Mr Murdoch did not explain what he meant by that.

He did, however, complain about Vox's other owners, especially Bertelsmann. The German media group, which also has world ambitions, has thwarted previous attempts to turn Vox into a station that people want to watch, because its success would imperil the profits of Bertelsmann's other TV channels. That situation has not changed, but both groups now have bigger fish to fry in the digital domain. Mr Murdoch's digital network in Britain is about to take off, but in the German market - the second most lucrative in the world - similar preparations were recently thrown out by the European Commission. Bertelsmann was one of two groups behind the losing bid.

Enter Rupert Murdoch, who had once flirted with digital television in Germany but backed out. He now has technology as well as programming to offer at a competitive price, given that much of the adaptation would involve nothing more strenuous than trans-

lation of his soaps, movies and sporting commentary into German. He is talking to both Bertelsmann and Leo Kirch, the other would-be digital mogul, possibly playing one off against the other. In this battle for the television of the future, Vox is clearly just the bait, and whatever investment plans Mr Murdoch may tout may be no more than a ruse.

His gigantic plans to build a network transcending national borders require political support, however, especially in heavily regulated Germany. With the Kohl government, Mr Murdoch could not do deal.

Enter Mr Schröder, the new kid on the block, who needs help to defeat Helmut Kohl in September's elections. One can already see the headlines: "The Sun says: Vote Schröder."

Perhaps not. Lacking newspapers in Germany, there is little Mr Murdoch can do at this point to boost the chancellor-candidate at this stage, other than endorsing him in the media owned by others.

Which is exactly what he seems to be doing in an interview in today's *Spiegel* magazine. "I admire Chancellor Kohl for his achievements during German unification and his political resoluteness," he said.

"But he is also responsible for the economic standstill, high taxes and social levies that make it hard for Germany to keep up in the modern world."

And Germany's development, as everyone familiar with Mr Murdoch's media outlets knows, is an issue very close to the tycoon's heart.



Gerhard Schröder needs help to get elected AP

I don't why people are so afraid

AT A rare press briefing, ahead of the Cologne book fair, Mr Murdoch said: "People are paranoid about me... I'm just the leader of a very ambitious, creative multi-media company that is trying to become global in its roots."

Defending his decision to back Tony Blair after supporting Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s, he said: "After Thatcher was knifed by her party it went to pieces, and Labour had finally become an acceptable party." In some of their policies, he added, Labour were "more Thatcherite than the Tories. But they'd kill you if you said that."

New UN court carries the torch from Nuremberg

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE VISION flickered briefly just after Nuremberg, before the Cold War descended and took the United Nations out of useful service for the best part of 50 years.

But now it is on the verge of reality. Delegates from more than 120 countries gather in Rome today to finalise a treaty setting up a permanent International Criminal Court under the aegis of the UN.

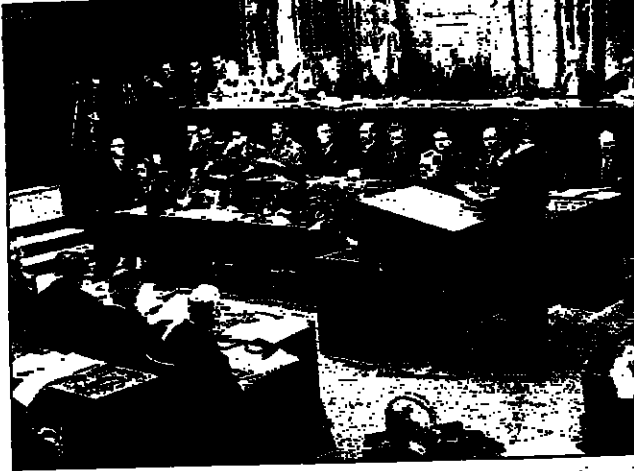
The 175-page draft they will pore over has been four years in the making. At least five more weeks of gruelling negotiation lie ahead, pitting supranational idealism against the dictates of *raison d'état*.

But at the end of this uniquely violent century, the world has its best ever chance to set up an effective independent mechanism to deal with the perpetrators of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Whether it will take it is another matter.

On so complex an issue, agreement was never going to be simple. The nuances of opinion are almost infinite. But three broad camps of opinion have emerged. Ostensibly, the distinctions between them are legal. In truth, however, they are utterly political, and quite possibly irreconcilable.

One group, with India, Mexico and Egypt in the forefront, would sooner have no court at all. Another, led by the United States, China and France, wants an ICC, but one that is firmly subordinate to the UN Security Council. The third and largest grouping is of so-called "like-minded" countries. It favours a strong court, and in its mix of Europe, Canada, and small- and medium-sized developing states it resembles the coalition behind the 1997 anti-landmine treaty.

The main points of argument are four. The first is state consent. A genuinely powerful court would be able to initiate its own prosecutions. France, however, argues that a suspect's own country must first agree, a condition that surely would emasculate it from the outset. Would an Iraqi government consent to the indictment of Saddam Hussein? Flowing from this is a second



The trials of Nazi war criminals 50 years ago (above) provided the precedent for the new UN court MSI

dispute, over the precise powers of the prosecutors. Too much, says the US, and "rogue" prosecutors would be able to pursue vendettas by launching frivolous cases against Washington and its peacekeepers around the world.

A third bone of contention is the balance between the ICC and national courts. Obviously suspected criminals should be tried if possible in his own country and its laws. But precisely how is it to be determined when a national judicial system is either unable, or unwilling, to act?

But the biggest disagreement surrounds the ICC's relationship with the Security Council. The US and most other major powers insist that any prosecution must first be authorised by the Council. For advocates of a strong court, this is tantamount to a kiss of death, giving the five permanent members the right of veto. Or rather, four. This time Britain is on the side of the angels - ready to forgo its veto rights in the higher interest of an independent court.

Few of the objections stand up to serious scrutiny. If peacekeepers have committed war crimes, they should clearly be punished, whatever their nationality. And as My Lai showed, America is capable of trying such crimes by its own servicemen. As for rogue prosecutors, everyone agrees that their decisions should be subject to approval by a panel of judges.

A more serious complaint is

that an unfettered court might interfere with delicate peace-making efforts by the Security Council. But not necessarily. As Bosnia demonstrated, the 1995 Dayton accords were signed despite explicit provision that war charges could still be brought against the likes of the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

In reality, America's attitude to the ICC reflects its ambiguity to the United Nations as a whole. The reservations of France and China, among others, are born of recent practical experience. Prime candidates for the attentions of the ICC would have been the Hutu rulers of Rwanda, and Pol Pot. Paris in the first instance, Peking in the second, might have had some embarrassing complications to explain at any trial.

So, is the game worth the candle? The deterrent effect of an international court is unproven, it may be said. Neither of the present ad hoc tribunals, dealing with the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda have achieved great things.

But such exercises do have a value. Whatever the failings of "victors' justice" at Nuremberg, few would argue that the leading Nazis should not have been put on trial.

Human rights groups accept that some compromise in Rome is inevitable if an ICC is to be created. Too much compromise however, and rather than a weak and over-politicised creature, they would prefer no court at all.

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JOHN WALSH
"It seems I'm destined to view the World Cup offstage. Wherever the action, I'm always going to be in the next room or on the phone"
MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

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Flood hero brings a wave of relief

EASTERN TIMES
HONG KONG

AT LAST Hong Kong has a hero, a real hero plucked from total obscurity by an act of bravery which saved two boys' lives and cost him his own. His name is Lee Ying-kwong. A name which meant nothing a few days ago but is now on everyone's lips.

No one in Hong Kong is quite saying so, but the former British colony badly needs a hero to relieve the unremitting gloom of a deepening economic crisis, a series of extraordinary food scares, outbreaks of mysterious diseases and simply terrible weather.

Like many obscure people who were suddenly thrust into the limelight, Mr Lee, a 51-year-old plumber, has turned out to have what might politely be described as a complicated personal life, which itself illustrates the sort of problems faced by the not-so-well-off in this harsh society which seems designed for high achievers.

Last Tuesday Mr Lee was working on a housing project when the skies disgorged more rain than has been seen in these parts for as long as most people can remember. The ensuing chaos was so bad that even the stock exchange stopped trading.

Mr Lee, on his way to size up a job, was far removed from the comfort of flickering screens and fast bucks being made and lost on the stock market. He heard cries from a nullah, one of the dirty streams which carry waste. On investigation he found two

boys who had been swept away in a torrent and were clinging to a grating at the mouth of a culvert. By lowering himself into the raging stream he managed to free the first boy. Then he went back for the other.

But by then the conditions had got even worse. While trying to free the second boy, he was swept away. Two days later the body was found. It seems he had been carried across Hong Kong's famous harbour in the torrent, having drowned shortly after the second abortive rescue attempt.

His 18-year-old son, Kwok-hung, described his father in terms that seem strangely reminiscent of the era of Chairman Mao. "He was the first one to learn from Lei Feng since the reunification of Hong Kong with China," he said. Lei Feng was a Chinese People's Liberation Army soldier who died in 1962, and who subsequently became the focus of countless Maoist campaigns concerning his supposed constant acts of self-sacrifice.

Now Kwok-hung is the son of Mr Lee's first wife, whom he met in China and brought back to Hong Kong. But under the extraordinary laws concerning the children of Hong Kong parents born on the Chinese mainland - who have no automatic right to join their parents in Hong Kong - Kwok-hung

has been waiting three years to join his parents.

Suddenly, however, the wall of Chinese red tape came tumbling down and he was allowed into Hong Kong in time for his father's funeral. Meanwhile, two other "wives" had emerged. One was in Hong Kong, with a daughter. Another appeared in the border town of Shenzhen, where so many "second wives" of Hong Kong men seem to live.

It must have been more than a struggle to keep this diverse family in food and clothing on a jobbing plumber's wages. Mr Lee's heroic death has resulted in cash pouring in from the public to support the children.

Hong Kong's chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, meanwhile, has decided to award Mr Lee a posthumous gold medal for bravery. It's about the only thing Mr Tung has done right for quite a while. And the warm glow of Mr Lee's bravery just might be enough to take minds away from the growing contempt the public is showing towards a government which is revealing itself to be pretty much at sea in handling the economic crisis.

AWAY FROM heroism, deep in the bowels of the earth, in the carriages of Hong Kong's splendid underground railway,

lurk a large number of men who are about as far removed from heroism as it is possible to get.

They are the gropers, who make use of the opportunity afforded in tightly packed carriages to conduct their unpleasant activities. They try - naturally - to remain anonymous but thanks to the diligence of the Chinese-language *Easy Finder* magazine, women have been given a chance of spotting them in advance.

An interview with a fortune teller reveals that gropers have readily identifiable physical features. They include thick lips, small mouths, bushy eyebrows, dull eyes, sallow skin, wide foreheads and narrow chins. No wonder they have to seek sexual gratification in packed underground carriages.

THE REACTION of the authorities following the arrest of Chan Tsz-tong is marvellous. He was a Hong Kong football team member who has been accused of complicity in a conspiracy to rig matches. "We all knew about match fixing," the authorities cried. Quite. Much in the same way that the authorities of the fabulously rich Hong Kong Jockey Club all knew about horse-race fixing, and various stock exchange officials knew about hanky panky at the bourse. Strange how they always keep it to themselves until some arrests are made.

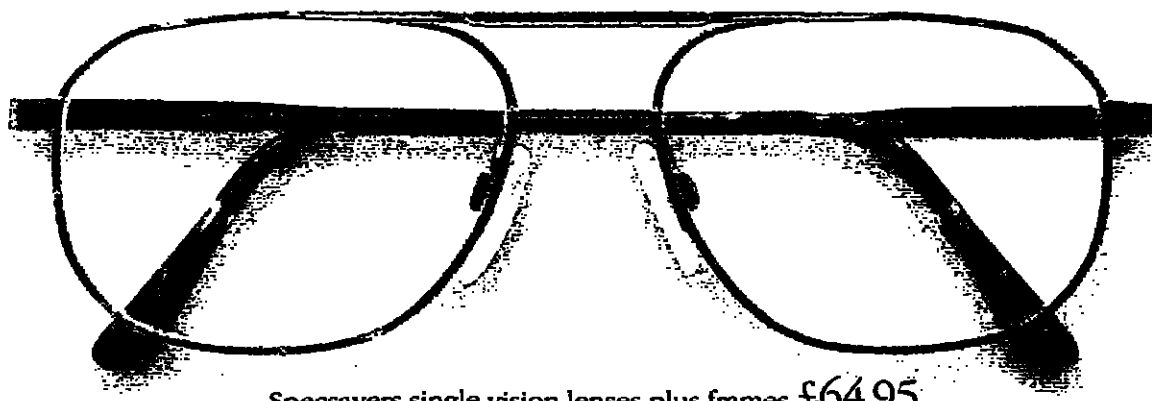
STEPHEN VINES



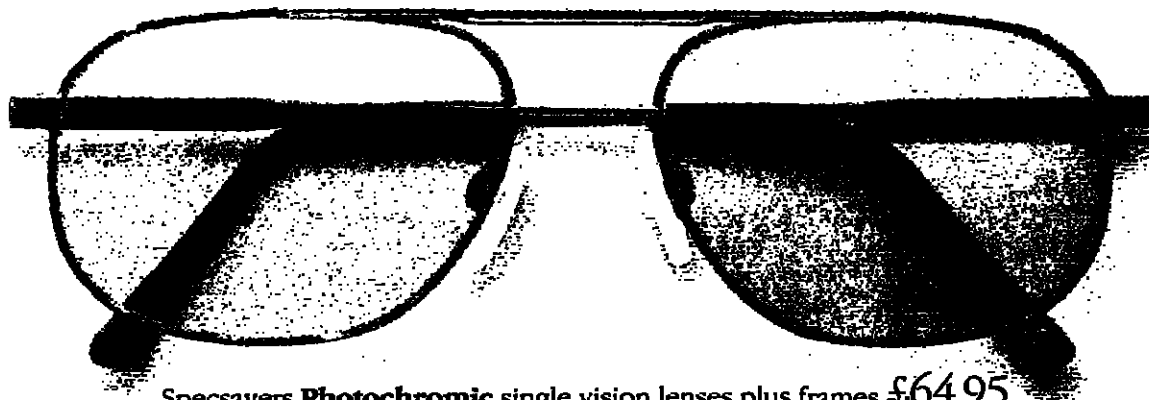
A man is swept along by flood waters as torrential rain hit Hong Kong last week

Stanley Lai/Reuters

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Basque team riles Madrid

WILL WE soon be watching Spain vs the Basque Country? Spain's conservative government hopes not and is rowing with its regional Basque and Catalan allies over plans to set up a Basque football team.

The autonomous Basque parliament last week approved a law permitting the formation of a team. At the weekend, the Catalans backed the initiative, too. They have long sought a team of their own to compete internationally outside Spanish ranks.

The Basque decision - supported by all the region's MPs, from the conservative ruling Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) to the pro-separatist Herri Batasuna (HB) - allows Basque sports federations to remain outside Spanish ones.

However, a government spokesman, Miguel Angel Rodriguez said the Basque Sports Law was probably illegal and

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

threatened to challenge it in the Constitutional Court. He accused his PNV allies of playing into the hands of the Basque separatist group Eta.

But the Catalan leader Jordi Pujol, whose party keeps Jose Maria Aznar's minority government in power, said he wanted to see if the Basque move could be applied to Catalonia.

International sports bodies accept only teams from national states. The Basques and Catalans point to the fact that England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland have national teams. The Faroe Islands have also achieved sporting nation status - with the support of Denmark, to which they belong.

"What they really fear is that a Basque team will beat the Spaniards," said Inaki Anasagasti of the Basque Nationalists.



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BUSINESS

Goldman committee meets to decide on market float

BRIEFING

WTO warns against protectionism

The World Trade Organisation is seeking to head off potential protectionist measures among developed economies in response to cheaper Asian imports, Renato Ruggiero, director general, said yesterday.

Mr Ruggiero said weakness in the Yen and other Asian currencies was starting to have an impact on world trade because Asian imports were cheaper than goods produced in developed countries. "I would say we are starting to see the negative effects of Asia's economic crisis showing up on trade only now," he said at a conference in Cernobbio, Italy. The positive thing is that we haven't seen any protectionist trade measures yet. We are watching carefully to see that there are none.

Ruggiero said the Asian economic crisis could worsen further if "the Japanese economy doesn't change direction and if China were to devalue its currency. If that were to happen, ramifications for developed economies could be even worse."

Japan warns Rubin over yen

A senior Japanese politician yesterday said he had urged the government to protest about remarks made by Robert Rubin, U.S. Treasury Secretary (pictured) which he claimed contributed to the yen's fall last week. Taku Yamazaki, chief policymaker for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said: "Secretary Rubin's comments caused the yen to further depreciate. We need to strongly protest."

On Thursday, Rubin told the Senate Finance Committee that market intervention to boost the yen would be only a "temporary tool". He added: "The weakness of the yen reflects the economic conditions in Japan, and can only be remedied by restoring economic strength in Japan."



Yamazaki said the most urgent task for policymakers was to help liquidate bad loans held by Japanese financial institutions. He said he hoped the government and LDP would have had loan disposal legislation prepared in time for an extraordinary session of parliament, to follow upper house elections on July 12. He called for the session to be convened by the end of July. Yamazaki said the idea of a state-owned "bridge bank" to take over the assets of failed banks would be one proposal to consider. The proposal involves allowing the Resolution and Collection Bank, now responsible for recovering loans extended by failed institutions, to make fresh loans to healthy borrowers.

PARTNERS OF Goldman Sachs were reported last night to have voted in favour of floating the 127-year-old investment bank at a marathon two-day meeting just outside New York at the weekend.

The bank's executive committee met last night to assess the results of what was being billed as merely a "survey" of partners views and will make a formal statement on their decision at 7.30am New York time today.

A "news blackout" was imposed on all those in the know. Partners were warned that those caught briefing the press would lose their jobs and therefore the chance to participate in one of the largest ever free

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

share hands-out in history. Even though a majority of the 190 partners were believed to have voted in favour of a float, Jon Corzine, co-chairman, has said he will only proceed if support is "overwhelming".

Several partners of senior standing including two members of the executive committee have argued strongly against flotation saying it will change the bank's culture and therefore might undermine its success.

The ballot was taken at a two-day meeting of partners, many of whom had flown in from London, at the exclusive IBM Palisades Executive Conference Center, nestled in forests about 40 miles north-west of New York and two miles to the west of the Hudson River. Sources said each partner was asked to fill in a lengthy questionnaire touching on a range of subjects about the future of the partnership. All that really mattered, however, was how many indicated their support for a sale of shares. The meeting broke up at about 3pm on Saturday.

While speculation that the vote had been in favour of a public offering was almost instant, officials insisted nothing would be clear until after a meeting of the firm's executive committee, made up only of the co-chair-

men Jon Corzine and Henry Paulson, and four other senior partners. That meeting was set for late yesterday afternoon at Goldman Sachs' headquarters on Broad Street in Lower Manhattan.

While many continued to believe a public offering remained the most likely option, some sources cautioned that the executive committee could refer the issue for further consideration by another, special committee before any final decision is taken for or against.

The extraordinary measures being taken by Goldman Sachs to keep the process secret was manifested by the elaborate security measures taken at the IBM Center.

While partners attended meetings in the Watson Room, named after the founding father of IBM, a small group of British reporters found themselves unable to penetrate even the main gates to the facility, which is usually open to the public.

Reporters, doused by heavy rains, were left only to ponder the combined values of the luxury cars, from BMW's, Mercedes and one \$140,000 (€90,000) Ferrari, parked just inside the gates, belonging, presumably, to the partners.

Those who did not bring their own cars were whisked away at 3pm by a veritable fleet of black Lincoln Town limousines sent the 40 miles from Manhattan.

No details of the flotation have yet been decided, but if the firm does decide to push ahead, only 15 to 20 per cent of the firm's capital will be made immediately available to the public. Partners receiving shares in the converted company will be locked in for varying periods of time, all of them long term.

Partners' interests in the company are also likely to be "capped" at a maximum interest of up to \$200m worth of stock each. Any surplus in capital would then be available for redistribution to other employees, including the so-called "marzipan layer" of key managing directors just below partnership level.



Andrew Miller at his Wallingford home - which he could lose as a result of Biotech's High Court writ

British Biotech whistleblower faces ruin from court action

THE whistleblower sacked by British Biotech, Dr Andrew Miller, is threatened with bankruptcy and the loss of his home following a decision by the troubled drugs company to sue him for damages.

British Biotech's lawyers, Slaughter & May, issued Dr Miller with a writ over the weekend claiming he had broken an employment contract which contained a confidentiality clause.

The company claims he is liable for undisclosed damages and costs because he broke his duty of confidentiality when he

BY ANDREW VERITY

voiced concerns over the progress of drugs trials at the company.

But Dr Miller yesterday said the company's attempt to "shut him up" would backfire and rebound on the company because the details of his allegations would once again be brought out in public.

"I have just started trying to get on with my life and walk away. Now they are coming after me for my house," he said. "The intention is to shut me up but by taking this action

it just ensures that we have to rake over very single detail all over again. It clearly will prolong the whole thing and turn it into a media circus."

Dr Miller said his legal costs were becoming "horrendous" at a time when he was prevented by the storm of media interest from finding another job. He is claiming £100,000 in compensation for a 6-month notice period which was dropped when Biotech sacked him in April, plus "stigma damages" because he cannot find work.

"At the moment it is very difficult indeed for someone to employ me and I am told that at the moment I am too hot to handle."

In the four weeks after his allegations became public, both Dr Miller and his wife lost their appetites and lost 5kg in weight because of the strain. "It has tested the family's resolve and our personal courage very severely. Now we are confronted with an even bigger challenge."

He said Biotech had "no case," pointing out he had kept his peace over concerns about Biotech's drugs until he was invited by Perpetual, a 9 per cent

shareholder in Biotech, to discuss the issues.

"I could have gone along with this extraordinary charade that everything was hunky-dory. I had 750,000 share options, which were then worth a couple of million pounds, which would have to have been held until 1999. But that would have been dishonest, self-destructive lunacy."

Dr Miller called on shareholders and non-executive directors to question the decision to sue, which he said was not in the best interests of the company.

Camelot prepares to bid for Tote sell-off

BY ANDREW VERITY

TRADE BIDDERS have pounced on the Government's £12bn privatisation programme just days after it was announced, with both Camelot and the National Grid declaring their interest in buying control of state assets.

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, said that it would "definitely be interested" in taking over the running of the Tote, the nationalised business which runs pool betting at race courses.

Camelot said there was a compelling logic to a takeover of the Tote. Both businesses involve advanced technology and a requirement to pass on a portion of the profits. A large chunk of profits from the Tote - £8.7m last year - is ploughed back into racing.

Close behind the lottery operator was the National Grid Group, which operates the country's electricity transmission systems. National Grid yesterday confirmed its interest in buying the 51 per cent stake in National Air Traffic Systems put up for sale by the Government.

A spokesman for National Grid said: "We are potentially interested because of the fit with our core skills and experience but it is incredibly early days."

It also emerged that National Grid had told the Government of its interest in the air-traffic control group weeks before Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced the sell-off last Thursday.

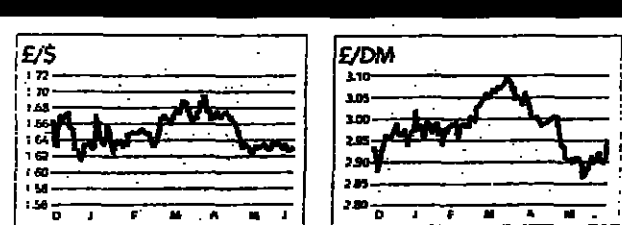
National Air Traffic Systems (Nats) is believed to be worth up to £600m. However, its price could be depressed because of problems with its computer systems. The company would require heavy investment because of the need to cope with increasingly crowded skies. Some have suggested that this could amount to more than £100m a year.

The Government has still not revealed whether it would be prepared to sell either the Tote or Nats direct to trade bidders. It is likely that other options, such as selling securities based on the steady income stream of either business, would be considered.

Executives at National Grid believe that the company is well-placed to manage air-traffic control and gain the confidence of both airlines and passengers. Both businesses involve the operation of complex software systems in real time, and both have to cope with sudden changes in demand and supply.

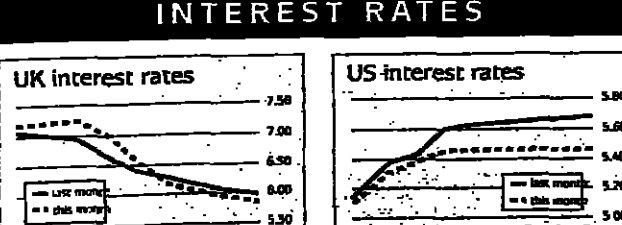
National Grid is increasingly keen to diversify in the light of tough regulation of its core business, where profits have been hit by price cuts demanded by regulators. David Jones, the chief executive, has set the company the goal of drawing 30 per cent of its earnings from non-core businesses by 2000.

STOCK MARKETS



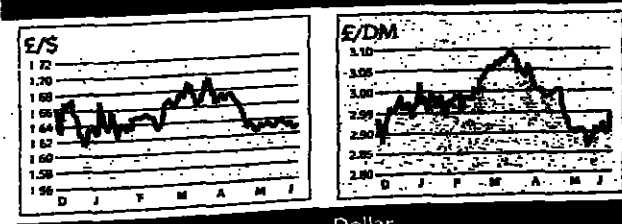
Index	Close	Wk's chg	Wk's chg %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield %
FTSE 100	5769.80	-177.50	-2.99	6150.5	4382.8	4.014
FTSE 250	5861.20	-73.40	-1.24	5970.9	4384.2	3.05
FTSE 350	2821.10	-76.60	-2.64	2940.1	2141.8	3.825
FTSE All Share	2761.31	-71.49	-2.52	2872.04	2105.59	3.772
FTSE SmallCap	2755.00	-19.40	-0.70	2795.8	2182.1	2.987
FTSE Fledgling	1902.70	-3.40	-0.36	1912.1	1225.2	2.988
FTSE AIM	1113.80	-10.80	-0.94	1146.9	969.9	1.091
FTSE EBLIC	100	1019.57				
Dow Jones	8834.94	-202.77	-2.24	9261.91	6971.32	1.611
Nikkei	15022.33	-301.10	-1.97	20910.79	14488.21	1.014
Hang Seng	7815.44	-654.03	-7.63	16820.31	7673.25	5.222
Dax	5670.83	-117.67	-0.31	5787.7	3487.24	2.798

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates	3 month	1 yr	5 yr	10 year	1 yr	5 yr	10 year
UK	7.69	0.96	7.71	0.58	5.63	-1.05	5.67
US	5.69	-0.09	0.81	-0.38	5.63	-1.05	5.67
Japan	0.35	-0.05	0.39	-0.29	1.52	-1.16	2.00
Germany	3.57	0.43	3.91	0.64	4.77	-0.94	5.34

CURRENCIES



£/\$	Rate	Wk's chg	% chg	1 yr	5 yr
Dollar	1.6307	-0.050	-3.02	1.6325	0.6122
D-Mark	2.9434	+3.940	1.34	2.8257	1.7284
Yen	235.62	+17.19	7.38	187.80	114.86
£ Index	104.90	+1.30	1.24	100.50	102.40

OTHER INDICATORS

Commodity	Price	Wk's chg	% chg	1 yr	5 yr
Brent Oil (\$)	17.27	-2.53	-14.64	16.74	11.47
Gold (\$)	286.00	-5.85	-2.04	341.05	156.35
Silver (\$)	5.17	-0.07	-1.35	4.71	6.50
Base Rates	7.50				6.50

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TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Wk's chg	% chg	1 yr	5 yr
Australia (\$)	2.6567				12.89
Austria (schillings)	19.95				3.1994
Belgium (francs)	58.67				3.1096
Canada (\$)	2.3249				12.07
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8316				288.67
Denmark (krone)	10.88				5.9314
Finland (markka)	8.6388				2.7043
France (francs)	9.5321				240.66
Germany (marks)	2.8514				8.1884
Greece (drachma)	481.31				12.68
Hong Kong (\$)	1.1244				2.3398
Ireland (pounds)	1.223				63.42
India (rupees)	63.39				467752
Israel (shekels)	5.4852				1.5901
Italy (lire)	226.19				
Japan (yen)	6.2321				
Malaysia (ringgits)	0.6187				
Malta (lire)					

Rates for information purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

MPs support Nationwide

MORE THAN 100 MPs and peers across the political spectrum have thrown their support behind Nationwide in its renewed battle to keep its mutual status.

Members of the cross-party Building Societies Group warned that a vote in favour of converting to a bank next month would rob the public of a valuable competitive restraint which serves to hold down mortgage rates.

Andrew Love MP, chairman of the group, said: "Building societies provide valuable diversity in a financial services industry increasingly dominated by the plc."

"If the Nationwide converted to bank status it is inevitable that it would act like a bank.

With external shareholders to satisfy profit margins would widen, mortgage rates increase and savings rates fall. The competitive restraint would disappear."

The society's 7.9 million customers are expected to receive their voting forms next week. They will be asked to vote on the re-election of directors and proposals on future strategy.

Michael Hardern, the former butler who was defeated by a two-thirds majority in elections to the board last year, has succeeded in tabling a proposal for the society to take steps towards converting to bank status. Mr Hardern and Andrew Muir, a 33-year-old recruitment consultant from Slough, will run for election to the board.

Retailers' warnings fail to curb rent rises

PRIME retail rents are continuing to grow rapidly in spite of warnings from retailers that rental levels are becoming uneconomic.

A report published today by Donaldsons, the chartered surveyors, shows that top shopping areas like London's West End are seeing continued price rises fuelled by increased competition for the limited store space available.

This is despite a fragile retail market which is being affected by a higher interest rates which is dampening consumer demand.

"By the end of the year this might look like the peak but it is too soon to say that just yet," said Edmund Cameron

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

are seeing at the moment is a polarisation in the market with the gap widening between the best locations and the rest. A slowdown might come soon but it is not likely to be before the Autumn and we predict a soft landing."

The report shows that nationally the short term trends in rental shop growth have yet to show clear signs of weakness and that the technical recession in the pound's strength, is currently having little effect on retail growth in the industrial heartlands.

The survey shows that the west end of London has shown

the highest growth for retail properties in the UK over the last three years with Manchester, Edinburgh and Bolton the best performing regional centres.

The report also highlights 10 resurgent areas which are now performing well after below average performances in 1994. Some of these such as Falkirk, Southport and Stockport have benefited from regional revivals. Others such as Guildford have managed to buck their regional trends.

However, in spite of the current rosy picture, Donaldsons is expecting the performance of rents to deteriorate from their current level of 6.2 per cent per year increase over the next three years.

Bank defends interest rate rise

MEMBERS OF the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which sets interest rates each month, went on the offensive this weekend against critics of their methodology and actions.

Professor Sir Alan Budd, Mervyn King and DeAnne Julius, all robustly defended the MPC and its actions in the wake of fierce criticism of their recent decision to raise interest rates.

Mervyn King, deputy governor of the Bank of England, rounded on City commentators, saying the reason they were unhappy with the decision was that they had failed to predict it and their employers might therefore have lost money in the markets. There was a similar message from Sir Alan Budd, who said that City economists had difficulty admitting they got it wrong and therefore argued that it was the MPC which had failed to deliver the right policy.

By DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Mr King told Bridge News at a conference in Stockholm: "I think the commentators in the UK were unhappy about the interest rate rise because they failed to tell their bosses that interest rates might go up and therefore probably saw some of their bonuses disappear."

"They deserve to lose that bonus because they focused far more on the interpretation of the MPC as a battle between two teams, hawks and doves, without realising every member of that team has to work to a target."

DeAnne Julius argues in *The Independent* today that too little attention has been paid to the implications of the fact that services now make up two-thirds of national output. She writes that, on top of the difficulties in measuring growth and inflation

when services are dominant, the fact that less capital is needed, typically for services than manufacturing means a bigger rise in interest rates might be needed to dampen overall demand in the economy.

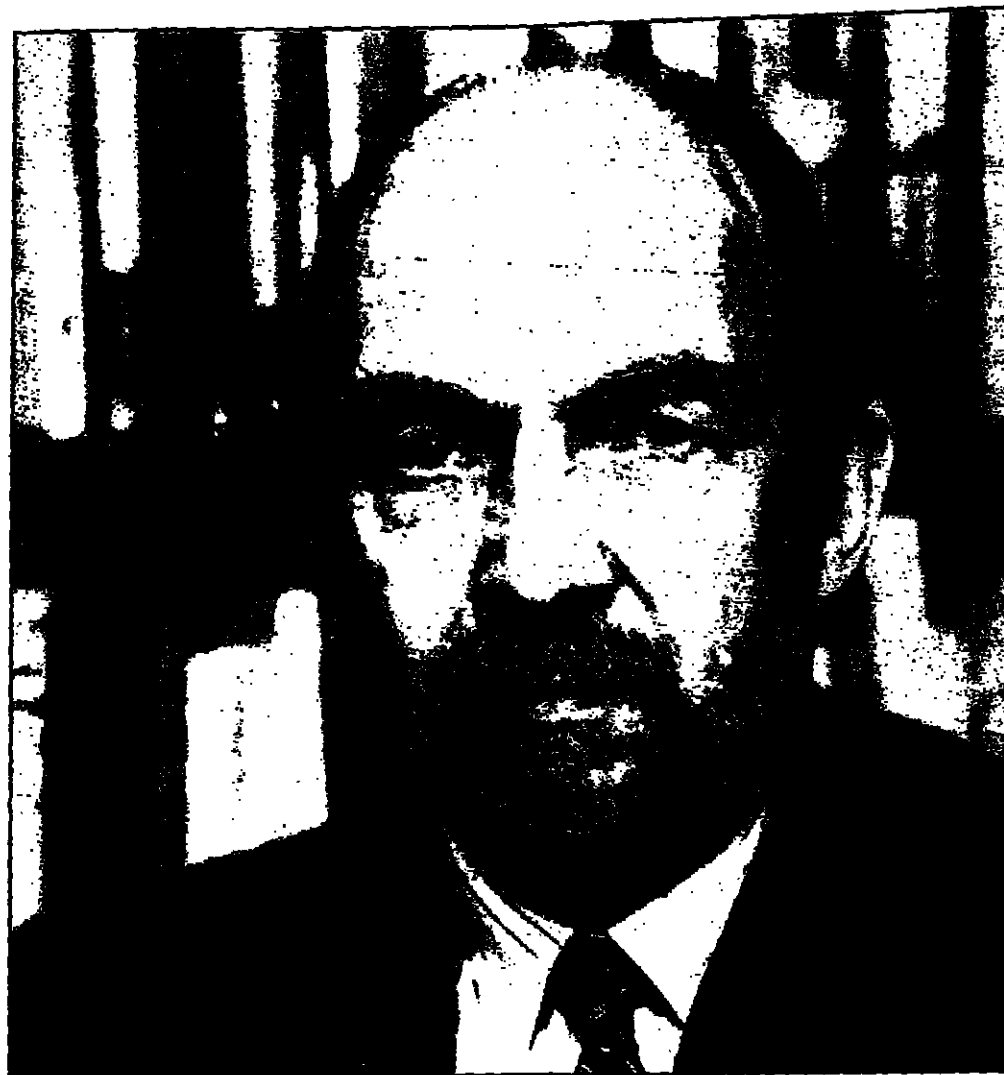
Ms Julius says: "The rising share of services in output could mean that interest rates would have to move more over the course of the economic cycle. This would make manufacturing more cyclical, bearing the brunt of higher borrowing costs."

Research is under way at the Bank of England to investigate the consequences for monetary policy of the steady shift away from manufacturing. The Bank's economists have also been concerned for some time that official statistics are dominated by manufacturing, with some of the main information about services coming instead from business surveys.

The significance of the article by Ms Julius is that she is the MPC member who argued for a reduction in rates in May, according to recently published minutes of that meeting. The fact that the most "doveish" member of the committee has drawn attention to the need for services to slow down as well as manufacturing highlights the emphasis some of her colleagues have also placed in recent speeches on the balance of evidence.

Sir Alan Budd said in a speech last Friday that many City commentators had viewed the evidence in a one-sided way, focusing on the slowdown in manufacturing rather than the inflationary dangers posed by higher private-sector pay rises. The MPC is also wary about the likely impact of the introduction of the minimum wage next year on earnings growth.

DeAnne Julius on the service economy, page 19



Professor Sir Alan Budd, of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, who says City economists had viewed the economic evidence in a one-sided way and therefore their predictions had been wrong

Ashley Ashwood

IN BRIEF

Australian firms face takeovers

MORE AUSTRALIAN companies may become the target of international takeover bids after the slump in the Australian dollar, investment bankers said at the weekend. Bankers Trust, Macquarie Bank and JP Morgan & Co said the recent fall in the currency to a 12-year low makes Australian companies attractive to potential buyers because they would pay less in local currency terms.

"The level of interest is increasing markedly," said Simon McKeon, an executive director at Macquarie Bank's corporate finance division. The Australian dollar fell to \$0.66 US cents on Friday. It has lost about 20 percent of its value since October 1997 amid concern that key Asian economies, including Japan, are heading into recession.

Insurer to float in Sydney at £6bn

AMP THE Australian mutual insurer, is expected to fetch A\$16 (25.80) a share when it floats on the Sydney stock market today, valuing the group at over A\$17bn (£6bn). Strong demand from fund managers is expected to push the price up to the top of its expected range of A\$12 to A\$16 as index funds seek to take an appropriate stake. Thousands of policy-holders with subsidiary companies in the UK are likely to benefit from windfall shares.

Armstrong covers wood floors

ARMSTRONG World Industries, North America's largest maker of floor coverings, is to acquire Triangle Pacific Corp for \$1.15bn in cash and assumed debt, to become the world's top maker of wood flooring.

Armstrong World has agreed to pay \$890m cash, or \$55.50 a share, to Triangle Pacific shareholders - a 27 per cent premium over the stock's closing price. Armstrong World will also assume \$280m in Triangle Pacific debt. Dallas-based Triangle Pacific makes hardwood flooring products and kitchen and bathroom cabinets at 15 plants, mainly in the US. In fiscal 1997 it had revenue of \$652.9m.

Telecom Italia board meets

TELECOM Italia, Italy's largest telephone company, said its board will meet on Tuesday to resolve a management conflict that could lead to the resignation of one of its top executives.

Vito Gambale, one of the firm's three director-generals, wrote to chairman Gian Mario Rossignolo demanding a redefinition of his role and management powers. Gambale has refused to comment but excerpts of his letter were published by the newspaper *La Repubblica* yesterday.

Gambale was quoted as saying in his letter that since requests for a clarification of his role had remained unanswered, he was "not in the circumstances able to carry through the task I have been entrusted with, as the conditions to do so are not there any more."

Lloyds-TSB merger rumoured

LLOYDS TSB Group is planning to merge its Lloyds bank and TSB branch networks to create a single Lloyds TSB brand, according to weekend reports. The move could lead to the closure of 600 outlets and save more than £300m a year. Officials at the company were not immediately available for comment.

Stakis seeks joint bid for Thistle

STAKIS, the hotels and casino group, is seeking a partner to launch a £1.8bn bid for Thistle Hotels, according to weekend press reports. Stakis is believed to be looking to team up with Strategic Hotel Capital, a Chicago-based property investment group, following the termination last week of talks with Vaux, owner of Swallow hotels.

Showtime for restaurant firm

A MAN WHO wrote songs for Elvis Presley, Sir Cliff Richard and Barry Manilow is seeking to float a restaurant firm on Ofex, the market for unlisted companies. Geoff Morrow hopes to raise £936,000 to capitalise 'It's Showtime', a company running two entertainment restaurants in Shaftesbury Avenue, London. Patrons include Tom Conti and Maureen Lipman.

Hearing aid firm seeks full listing

HIDDEN Hearing, one of the UK's leading suppliers of hearing aids, revealed it is seeking a full listing on the Stock Exchange this summer. The group, which was founded in 1988 and had earnings of £2.6m in the year to March 31, is expected to be valued at £10m.

Malaysia addresses interest rate

MALAYSIAN premier Mahathir Mohamed said on Sunday that his government was working to reduce the interest rate charged by banks. He told reporters the government was working on a plan to reduce the rate after a meeting of the ruling Barisan Nasional (National Front) coalition.

China to form pair of oil giants

China is to create two oil giants in a bid to consolidate its petroleum industry. Amid high stockpiles and a domestic market slump, China's petrochemical industry suffered losses of 2.7bn yuan (\$325m) in the first four months of this year. The two new oil giants would combine upstream oil exploration and downstream refining and chemical sectors, said Yang Weicai, director of the Industrial Guidance Department at the State Petrochemical Industry Bureau.

"Make sure
everyone
knows
I'm still in
Bed."

News Analysis: It once led the world in car jokes. Now the brand from hell is an industry leader in advanced manufacturing

Skoda teaches the world to make cars



Left, Skoda's original Octavia from the Fifties and right, the new model. Its production is a showcase for the latest methods, but its designer says he has tried to create a bridge with the past

By MICHAEL HARRISON
in the Czech Republic

MICHAEL ROGUZ is 19 and comes from a small Polish village on the border with Ukraine. Educated, articulate and fluent in English, he could have been a translator or entered one of the professions. Instead he has chosen to take part in a unique experiment in car production at the Skoda Auto plant at Mlada Boleslav, 60 kilometres north-east of Prague.

The fruits of that experiment will appear in Britain next week when the Skoda Octavia goes on sale. It is the most important Skoda car launch since the Velvet Revolution swept communism away and the Czech Republic's best-known export (after Budweiser beer) was taken under the wing of Germany's Volkswagen. It is also the product which Skoda hopes will change its image once and for all as the joke brand of the car market.

If the car is as advanced as the method being used to manufacture it, then Skoda has reason to be quietly confident. Michael, one of 3,000 "guest" workers at the plant, is paid 16,000 crowns (£300) a month for working an eight-hour shift with a 30-minute break. Although he only arrived at Mlada Boleslav two weeks ago, he says he is enjoying life on the assembly line.

VW, which took a big gamble when it paid DM1.5bn for Skoda in 1991, would probably appreciate his enthusiasm but dispute his assessment. For the Octavia line is anything but typical and, while it may look simple, it is a showcase for some of the most advanced techniques the car industry has ever witnessed.

Unlike a conventional production line, where components are fitted to the shell of the car as it moves along, the Octavia plant has been designed using the "fractal" assembly concept. This means that large parts of the car – such as the dashboard and the seat assembly and the rear axle – are pre-assembled as one unit and then bolted on as one.

Nearly a half of the workforce on the Octavia line are not employed by Skoda at all but work for component suppliers. The line itself is only about a third of the length of that in the sister plant next door which makes the Skoda Felicia.

The result is that inventories are kept to a bare minimum. This is one step beyond "just-in-time" manufacturing. The rest of the automotive world is watching the experiment with interest. Mazda of Japan is said to be planning a similar plant while Mercedes intends to use the technique at its Swatch car plant.

Skoda is coy about how well the experiment is progressing. Although the Octavia went into production in late 1996, output is still in the build-up phase. The plan is to raise production from 90,000 to 140,000.

Frank Farsky, director of communications, says: "We had to have a lot of discussions with the unions because they were afraid it would take jobs away from them. Some people were against it because they did not think it would work. But the experiment is succeeding. We are producing the volume and the quality while cutting down on lead times and costs". The proof of the pudding is in Skoda's results. Last year it produced after-tax profits of 1.9bn crowns on sales of 90bn crowns – the first profit since VW took over – and this year the plan is to pay the first ever dividend to its German owners.

But it is not just down to advanced production techniques. Skoda still has the lowest labour costs of virtually any car maker in Europe. The £300 a month that Skoda workers earn is a third more than the national average but it is still just one-eighth of the wages in a German car plant.

"Our lower labour costs are an advantage but they are not to last forever," says Mr Farsky. "When we took over we assumed it would give us an edge for 10 years. It looks like it will last longer than that. In terms of manhours per car we are not as efficient as we might be but in terms of cost per employee per car we are ahead of other European manufacturers and even the Japanese."

VW's priorities when it took over Skoda were to keep the name, maintain the workforce at its current size (22,000 people), raise capacity and add another model.

It has achieved all that but some observers question how much is left of Skoda that is identifiably Czech. The Octavia was designed by a Belgian brought in from VW's Audi unit. 60 per cent of its platform (power train, gearbox, engine, drive shaft, suspension, floorpan) is the same as that on the VW Golf and Audi A3 and many of the key components come from VW.

Dirk Van Braekel, who arrived at Mlada Boleslav as head of design in January 1994 disputes that Skoda has become little more than a "badge" company. "Everything you see, hear and feel here is 100 per cent Skoda," he says. To prove the argument he points to the way he designed the Octavia. "What we have tried to do is create a bridge to the past, before the bad days of communist control, and draw on the strengths from Skoda's long tradition. So for instance the grille is inspired by pre-war Skodas



Dirk Van Braekel, the Octavia's designer

and the silhouette is based on the Skoda coupés from the 1950s and 1960s.

VW intends to invest a further DM2.4bn in the next four years on top of the DM2.1bn it has already sunk in the business with the aim of raising production to 500,000 a year – triple the level in 1990. There are also plans for a third model, a large car in the Audi A6 bracket.

To pull it off will depend on persuading the Czechs that a Skoda remains a Skoda (the marque still accounts for 57 per cent of the domestic market) while convincing west European buyers that beneath the Skoda skin lies a body of pure German technical sophistication. In Britain, for instance, Skoda has set itself a target of more than doubling sales from 16,500 last year to 37,500 by the millennium.

Competitive pricing will help. The Octavia will start at £11,500 – that is £3,000 less than the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Vectra But Skoda will probably have to get there with little help from the all-important fleet market.

Make sure
everyone
knows
I'm serious
Be serious

Turnaround on small investors

THE Stock Exchange can be a baffling, contradictory organisation. In recent years it has made life increasingly difficult for small investors. Now it intends to spend £1m encouraging private individuals to entrust at least some of their wealth to the stock market.

The decision to woo the small investor with a Share Aware campaign stems from the 1996 Weinberg Committee on share ownership which revealed a lack of understanding of the benefits of investing in shares.

Many will regard the campaign as a change of heart. There is, rightly or wrongly, a strong impression that the City is not remotely interested in the welfare, or otherwise, of the small player.

Many leading stockbrokers and market makers are prepared to say, privately of course, that the general attitude from the Stock Exchange Tower, which is heavily influenced by the major investment houses, is that private shareholders are more trouble than they are worth.

Perhaps this interpretation is unfair. But many of the measures the Stock Exchange has introduced in recent years favour the institutional investor and disadvantage the small shareholder.

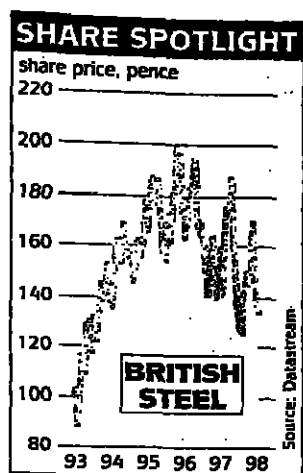
Big players provide the lion's share of its business. But the small investor is a vital constituent, often supplying the seed corn, of any share owning democracy. And, of course, they generate most of the individual trades, albeit relatively small in cash terms, which are recorded, providing livelihoods for most of the smaller private client stockbroking firms as well as execution only stockbrokers and, indirectly, income for some major market firms.

The last Tory Government tried to encourage the small investor with a string of privatisations; then came the demutualisations and, judging from Chancellor Gordon Brown's plans, even New Labour may have a soft spot for the little player.

However, the Stock Exchange's campaign to encourage the small investor has already run into flak with some suggesting the "hot cakes" theme supports speculation rather than long term investment. And £1m pales against the relentless advertising outlay by Nasdaq in this country. There is a theory the small investor would have been better

THE WEEK AHEAD

BY DEREK PAIN



served if the £1m being splashed on the campaign had been devoted to looking after their interests in the market, perhaps examining ways of moving towards a two tier market - one for the big boys, the other designed to be more accommodating to the little 'uns.

A thin reporting list this week is headed by British Steel, a casualty of the strong pound. Year's profits are likely to be down from £433m to around £270m.

Engineer FKI should manage a 12 month out-turn of £137.5m, up from £112.1m, and Securicor may produce first half profits of £45m against £48m. Securicor's shares have been strong with corporate activity the major influence. It is widely suspected the group will surrender its minority shareholding in the Cellnet mobile telephone operation to BT which has 60 per cent. Such a deal could transform Securicor.

Hazlewood Foods, likely to offer a year's out turn of £42m against £37m, is another where investors are peering beyond the trading performance. Since Unigate walked away from Hillsdown Holdings there has been speculation it may turn its attention to Hazlewood.

Robert Wiseman Dairies, an acquisitive group with a robust profit record, should deliver year's figures of £17.5m against £12.2m.

Service boom to be wary of



DEANNE JULIUS

It is too soon to say what the shift to a service dominated economy will mean, but the implications could be profound

THE growing importance of services is a familiar trend across most advanced economies. For better or worse, Britain is in the vanguard of this trend, with services now accounting for two-thirds of total output (GDP) and three-quarters of all jobs. Only the US economy is more dominated by services.

The growth of Britain's service sector is mainly a success story, not, as some have claimed, just a passive reflection of the relative decline of manufacturing.

Since 1970 the production of marketed services (ie, excluding government) has grown at 3 per cent per year, compared with less than 1 per cent per year growth in manufacturing output. The UK's international trade in services has consistently been in surplus, compared to a significant deficit in the trade in goods. In fact, last year despite the strong pound and robust domestic demand, the UK recorded its first overall current account surplus for more than a decade due in no small part to the record surplus in services. There are now five million more jobs in services than in 1970, while the number of jobs in manufacturing has shrunk.

But while the shift towards services is clear, its implications for economic policy are not. It may be, of course, that the economic characteristics of services are similar enough to those of goods that conventional macro measures (such as capacity utilisation and the output gap) and the policy rules derived from them are fully adequate. Even then, if there are greater measurement problems in services that make it hard to capture improvements in quality or productivity then economy-wide measures of growth and inflation may become increasingly distorted.

A further worry is that the effect of a policy decision (say, to change interest rates) on the economy may be different when the great bulk of producers are service companies. The export orientation and capital intensity of a firm will affect how sensitive it is to changes in exchange rates and interest rates. To the extent that service companies differ, on average, on such measures from other sectors of the economy, their growing share may

affect the optimal policy response.

Consider capital intensity. On average, manufacturing firms have a higher capital/output ratio than service firms. The interest rate is a key determinant of investment because it is an important part of the cost of capital for firms. If manufacturing firms use more capital than service firms to produce the same amount of output, then a rise in interest rates will raise manufacturers' costs proportionately more and be a stronger brake to their expansion. As the share of

services in total output grows, it might require a bigger rise in interest rates to achieve the same dampening of demand in the overall economy. Of course, interest rates operate through many channels other than investment so the story is not so simple. But to the extent that investment is an important part of the transmission mechanism for monetary policy, the rising share of services in output could mean that interest rates would have to move more over the course of the economic cycle. This would make manufacturing industry even more cyclical as it bore the brunt of steeper interest rate rises and reaped the benefit of sharper cuts. Such a roller coaster of interest rates would be no fun for mortgage holders either.

Fortunately, at least in terms of capital intensity and investment, there appears to be a convergence underway between the services and manufacturing sectors. Since the end of the early 1980s recession, the share of investment in total output (ie, the investment intensity) of services has been rising while that in manufacturing has been falling. Over the last decade service firms have actually invested more, as a share of output, than have manufacturing firms. This has shrunk the gap between their capital/output ratios. Whereas in 1982, the ratio in manufacturing was roughly double that in services, by 1997 it was just 55 per

cent higher. This removes some of the concern for monetary policy, but it would be even better news if the additional investment by service firms had brought about big gains in productivity. Over the last 10 to 15 years only the transport and communication part of total services has recorded average annual productivity growth anywhere near that of manufacturing, and that was a sector of net job loss. Mis-measurement may be part of the problem, but this productivity gap remains a puzzle.

A key question for anti-inflation policy is why services prices tend to rise faster than goods prices. This appears to be true across countries and during periods of both rising and falling inflation. The chart shows that in Britain over the past decade service price inflation has been higher than goods inflation in every year except 1996 when there were big reductions in utilities prices. In fact, since their privatisation, the utilities component of service price inflation has been an important offset to higher price rises in other services. The biggest contributors to high service inflation over this decade have been restaurants and leisure services.

In the year since the Government gave the Bank of England responsibility for setting inflation target rates to meet its inflation target of 2.5 per cent, goods price inflation has been consistently below that level (at an average of 2.1 per cent) while service inflation has been above it (3.0 per cent). Household spending on services makes up 35 per cent of the inflation index, much less than services share of output or employment. This is partly because the important services of health and education are paid for through taxes rather than user charges. In the US, where most healthcare and higher education is paid for directly, services account for 57 per cent of the inflation index for households.

There are at least four possible reasons for the consistently higher rates of service price inflation.

First, we could blame the statisticians. There could be greater measurement bias for services than goods in terms of underestimating quality improvements for

which the consumer is willing to pay, thereby overestimating the price increase. Many visitors to London have remarked on the vast improvement in restaurant food and service since the 1970s. It must be difficult for the statistician to decide how much of the higher restaurant bill reflects better service and how much is simple inflation.

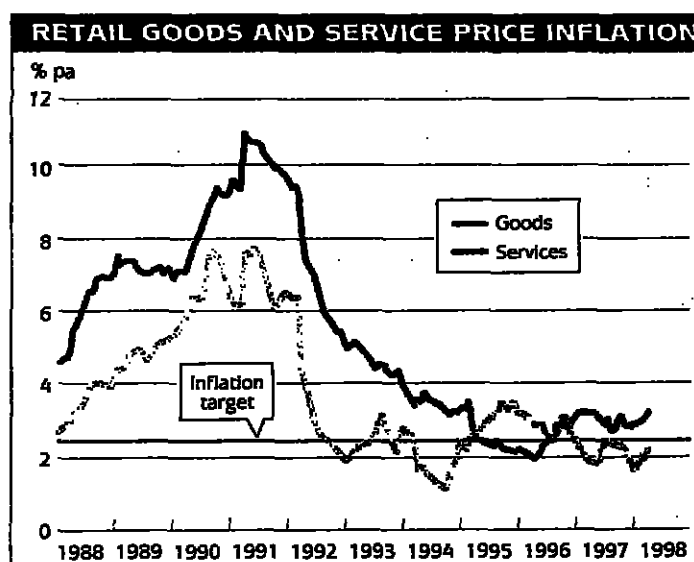
Second, the lower exposure of services to international trade may result in less competitive pressure on service prices at home.

Third, even if competitive pressures are strong, there may be certain characteristics of some services that allow a greater degree of price complexity and therefore market power by producers. Customisation (versus commoditisation) and direct interaction between the producer and consumer (versus arm's-length sales through intermediaries) make price comparison more difficult for consumers. Component services may be embedded in packages (eg, mobile telephones) that can obscure the price actually paid or the service actually bought.

Finally, if average productivity growth is intrinsically faster in manufacturing than services, then a fixed inflation target for the economy and competitive conditions in both sectors implies that service prices will continue to rise relative to goods. However, trend productivity growth would decline, so a 2.5 per cent inflation target would be associated with lower average wages and GDP growth.

It is too soon to say what the shift to a service dominated economy will mean for future growth, productivity, employment, trade, competition policy or monetary policy. The implications could be profound. Research is under way to address such questions at the Bank of England and elsewhere, but more needs to be done. Until we understand better some of the fundamental economic characteristics of services, there is a risk that using old rules and old tools could trap the economy in its old tendencies to underperformance.

Deanne Julius is a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, Bank of England.



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SPORT

The irrepressible Ethiopian

THEY ARE making a feature film about the life of Haile Gebrselassie entitled *Endurance*. No doubt it will run and run. But the 24-year-old Ethiopian is making his life difficult to pin down at the moment. Although the theme remains the same – miraculous running – he continues to pile achievement upon achievement.

In Helsinki on Saturday night, Gebrselassie regained the 5,000 metres world record which had been taken from him by one of his Kenyan rivals last August. That evening in Brussels had a galvanic – if not traumatic – affect upon him, as he also lost his world 10,000m record, again to a Kenyan.

After that double blow, Gebrselassie vowed that he would regain both marks. "It doesn't matter how fast they run, I will run faster," he said with a chilling grin. Chilling, that is, for the Kenyans, who, despite weight of numbers, have been unable to subdue this tiny, determined figure in the last six years.

The model for so much that followed occurred at the World Junior Championships in 1992 when Gebrselassie ran shoulder to shoulder with the Kenyan favourite, Josephat

Haile Gebrselassie is running his rivals ragged in pursuit of world records from 3,000m to 10,000m. By Mike Rowbottom

Machuka, in the final laps of the 10,000m only to be balked and finally punched in the back before crossing the line first. The Kenyan was disqualified.

A year later there was controversy of a similar kind as he tracked Kenya's defending 10,000m world champion, Moses Tanui, in Stuttgart, catching Tanui's heel as they approached the bell and causing the Kenyan to lose his shoe. Although Tanui bolted like a startled rabbit down the back straight, Gebrselassie passed him 50 metres from the line to finish in an atmosphere that was polarised between mad applause and heavy booing.

Gebrselassie's new rivals from Kenya include the two men who made his evening in Brussels such a misery – Paul Tergat and the 22-year-old Daniel Komen. Gebrselassie's revenge began in Hengelo, the

Netherlands, on 1 June, when he took more than five seconds of Tergat's world 10,000m mark with a time of 28min 22.75sec. After Saturday's run in Finland, when he took 0.38sec off Komen's 5,000m record, his words were fully borne out by deeds.

It was Gebrselassie's 14th world best, and the fourth time he had held the record at this distance. "I am not 100 per cent satisfied with this run," he said. "But it was okay." Perhaps we will learn later this summer what he considers to be a good run.

Gebrselassie has heroic status back home in Ethiopia, something which was heightened in February when he won the prestigious Jesse Owens International Trophy Award for the world's outstanding athlete in any sport. The film that is being made is sure to make the most of the humble beginnings of this pre-eminent sportsman. One of 10 children, he was

brought up in a mud hut on his father's farm and recalls the time when he "borrowed" his father's prize radio to listen to the commentary of the 1990 Olympics. The seven-year-old was desperate to hear the exploits of the man who he describes as his own hero, Miruts Yifter. At those Olympics in Moscow, Yifter the Shifter, as he was known, startled the field with his burst of pace to win both the 5,000 and 10,000m.

That was an Olympic double which Gebrselassie had hoped to emulate in Atlanta two years ago, but in winning the 10,000m gold he sustained such severe blisters from the hard track that had been designed with sprinters in mind that he was forced to withdraw from the shorter distance.

Last year he won the world 10,000m title almost nonchalantly for a third successive time, but his main energies appear to be turned towards record breaking. One of his successes in that record felt like a failure – in May he lowered the two miles world best to 8min 01.08sec, but missed a prize of \$1m on offer then to the first man under eight minutes.

This season, however, with no

HOW THE 5,000M MARK HAS EVOLVED

13min 35.00sec	David Moorcroft (GB)	7.7.82
13:34.80	Vladimir Kuts (USSR)	13.10.57
13:34.80	Ron Clarke (Aus)	16.1.65
13:33.60	Clarke	1.2.65
13:25.80	Clarke	4.6.65
13:24.20	Kip Keino (Kenya)	30.11.65
13:16.60	Clarke	5.7.66
13:16.40	Lasse Viren (Fin)	14.9.72
13:13.00	Emiel Puttemans (Bel)	20.9.72
13:12.86	Dick Quax (NZ)	5.7.77
13:08.40	Henry Rono (Ken)	8.4.78
13:06.20	Rono	13.9.81
12:56.96	Haile Gebrselassie (Eth)	4.6.94
12:55.30	Moses Kiptanui (Kenya)	8.6.95
12:44.39	Gebrselassie	16.8.95
12:41.85	Gebrselassie	13.8.97
12:39.74	Daniel Komen (Kenya)	22.8.97
12:39.36	Gebrselassie	13.6.98



Gebrselassie: Bane of Kenya's elite runners

global championships on the agenda, and with Komen having apparently decided not to race him directly, he is free to concentrate on running with times – and money – in mind.

He confirmed on Saturday that his next target is the 3,000m world record which he hopes to break in Oslo next month. Gebrselassie's coach, Jos Hermens, underlined that his athlete would now concentrate on winning all seven 3000m races at IAAF grand prix events being held in Europe this season.

"Haile is so smart that after 3,000

metres he knows what to do so he doesn't even need a coach," Hermens said. This season, it looks as if the only thing Gebrselassie will have to do at that point is ensure the promoter has the correct bank details.

Earlier in the evening, Mark Richardson established himself as the leading Briton over 400m this season by beating his senior training partner Roger Black in a time of 44.53sec, a performance which makes him the obvious choice to represent his country at the European Cup in St Petersburg the weekend after next.

Black, who recently defeated two other leading Britons, Iwan Thomas and Jamie Baulch, recorded 45.20sec in what was his second race since recovering from last season's debilitating viral infection.

Colin Jackson recorded his best 110m hurdles time of the season, 13.12sec, in defeating his American rival Mark Crear. And Steve Backley maintained his promising start to the season in the javelin with a throw of 87.48m to take second place behind Finland's rising star, Aki Parviainen, who managed 87.91m.

Boxing: De La Hoya retained his world welterweight crown on Saturday but has yet to win over all fight fans

Respect but little love for Oscar

BY GLEN LEACH

ON SATURDAY night in El Paso, Texas, the biggest American boxing crowd since 1993 – the fifth largest of all time – gathered to watch a fight that was a mismatch from its inception. It was the event rather than the contest that drew 45,000 to the Sun Bowl arena in the border town on the banks of the Rio Grande. The event called Oscar De La Hoya.

De La Hoya, the 25-year-old World Boxing Council welterweight champion, is a phenomenon. Not only is he an excellent fighter, unbeaten in 28 contests (23 wins by KO), but the handsome and articulate "Golden Boy" has transcended the sport: De La Hoya's popularity with young Hispanic women has reached teenybop proportions, and he fights to the kind of soundtrack usually associated with the music world's manufactured boy bands.

The demographic of De La Hoya's pay-per-view TV audience reveals that 30 per cent of all buyers are women below the age of 25. Hundreds of screaming females greeted De La Hoya when he flew into El Paso on Tuesday, with similar-sized gatherings attending supposedly secret training sessions for his defence against his mandatory French challenger, Patrick Charpentier.

While the clean-cut youngster, born in Los Angeles of Mexican parents, is a hit with women, he faces an uphill battle to win over male Mexican fight fans, who like their warriors to be rugged, uncompromising sorts. However, the most chauvinist fans in boxing are also among the most knowledgeable and they harbour a grudging, unspoken respect for De La Hoya's achievements in the ring.

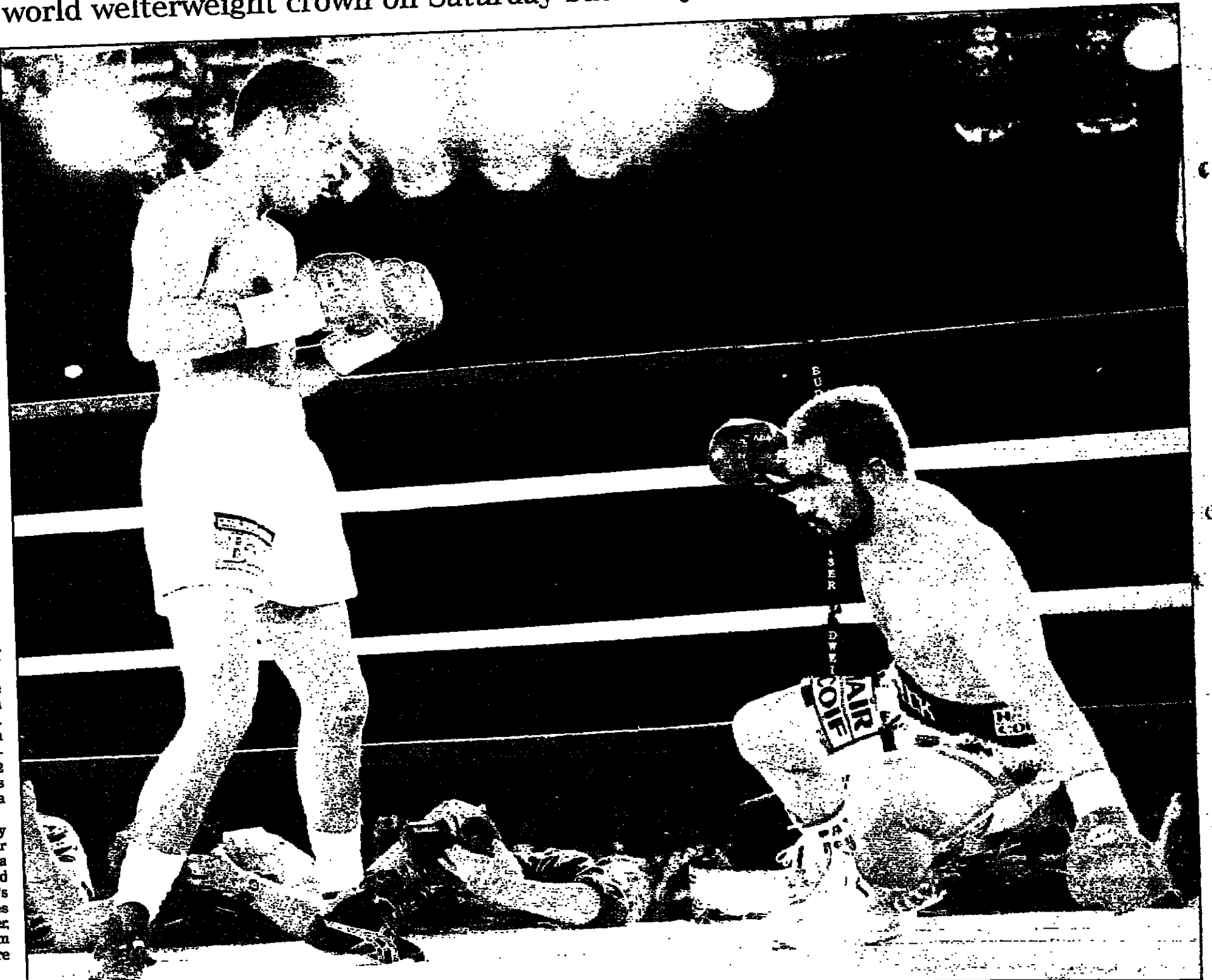
De La Hoya easily dealt with his Mexican-born rivals Julio Cesar Chavez and Miguel Angel Gonzalez, who drew a 140,000 crowd when they met at the Plaza de Toros, Mexico City in April. De La Hoya's presence at ringside brought squeals of delight from the few females in the massive old bull ring, but they could barely be heard as the boos and catcalls of the males filling the arena.

Fortunately for the native of the East Los Angeles barrio, De La Hoya's country of birth loves him. The United States took De La Hoya to its heart after he saved the nation's embarrassment at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, where he was the only American fighter to win a gold medal, at lightweight.

With a record of 222 wins (160 by KO) against five defeats in a 10-year amateur career, De La Hoya was a media star long before he boarded the plane for Barcelona. "Oscar's personality outside the ring makes him a winner," said his first manager, Bob Mittleman, who returned from Spain with the most-prized signature in boxing at the time.

De La Hoya signed what was reportedly the richest deal ever for a fighter coming out of the Olympics. He sold out the 6,000-seat Great Western Forum, Los Angeles, on his pro debut in November 1992, and won in 102 seconds. After 11 fights, he won the first of five world championships in four weight divisions. By that stage in his career, De La Hoya had abandoned wearing a sombrero and waving both the American and Mexican flags as he entered the ring. The admiration and respect he hoped to receive from the Old Country was never going to materialise.

At least there were plenty of screaming girls in evidence when



Oscar De La Hoya knocks down Patrick Charpentier for the second time in the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas on Saturday night

Jed Jacobson/Allsport

ever he fought, and, in the best traditions of a teenybop icon, De La Hoya knew better than to admit to romantic attachments for fear of alienating a female following, who each liked to think they might be the one he was saving himself for.

He once said: "For a boxer to have a woman in your life is really tough." So it seems. De La Hoya recently featured in a *Sports Illustrated* article on "deadbeat dads" where the mother of his young son complained

about the lack of attention that the fighter paid him. After the fight in El Paso, De La Hoya tried unconsciously to redress the balance. He said: "This fight is for my son, Jacob. I miss him."

De La Hoya's image disguises the steely resolve of a young man determined to succeed. He dumped Mittleman, who had invested heavily in launching his professional career, in favour of a more lucrative "establishment" deal with the pro-

moter Bob Arum's Top Rank organisation. The cries of "mercenary" grew louder when another manager, Shelly Finkel, revealed that De La Hoya had reneged on an agreement stating that Finkel, who guided Evander Holyfield to the top and is now working with Mike Tyson, would have De La Hoya's signature after the Olympics – this after the manager had given financial support for De La Hoya for two years prior to Barcelona and paid the funeral ex-

penses of the boxer's mother, Cecilia. De La Hoya has the survival instincts of any street kid. Proud of his roots, he carries a \$1 food voucher with him to remind him of his poor upbringing. But these days he can afford to move his father Joel, who has a significant level of control over his son's career, and sister into a \$500,000 (£300,000) house he bought for them in an attractive part of L.A. He may never be able to buy the respect of the Mexican people, who

hunger to see him beaten by one of their own, but life has its compensations for De La Hoya, who earned \$38m from five fights in 1997, and \$3m for the rout of Charpentier, who was down three times in the third before the referee called a halt after 1min 56sec of the round.

Charpentier had landed all of five punches before his collapse. But then it is doubtful that the women in the Sun Bowl had noticed he was there at all.

The day League became a different class

Rugby's Great Split: Class, Culture and the Origins of Rugby League Football
By Tony Collins (Frank Cass, £35 hardback, £16.50 paperback)

IT HAS been the fashion over the past few years, as the old distinctions between amateur and professional have collapsed, to assume that the schism that divided rugby in 1895 was an aberration that split like from like.

Tony Collins' book is not only the most exhaustive and scholarly account of the background to events 103 years ago, it is also a timely counter-blast against that revisionist tendency.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

His conclusion is that rugby league and union are not twins separated by accident. There was and is a fundamental difference and it is not one of line-out and play-the-ball: it is cultural, economic and political. "Part of its appeal was the fact that it was almost entirely separate from the middle and upper classes and, because of its marginalised position in wider society, not wholly part of national public life," he writes of the new game.

It is this sense of separateness, of self-containment within a different set of rules, on and off the field, that leads to what outsiders have often perceived as a "chip on the shoulder" attitude. Collins' work should not be read as a text in support of a permanent mood of resentment, but it does establish a philosophy that underpins the game.

What this book shows is that rugby union, before and after the split, was as riddled with snobbery and class bias as the most doctrinaire league propagandist could wish.

At times, the effect is unavoidably comic. Take the instruction that the Yorkshire Rugby Union is-

sued to Google in 1898, banning them from playing a charity match against the touring cast of "Little Red Riding Hood" because the theatricals had already played a similar game against Batley of the Northern Union, as the Rugby Football League was originally known. Making a pantomime of themselves, quite literally.

Of course, not all the idiocy was on one side. In its early years, the Northern Union fell over itself to be as zealous as its old master in resisting full professionalism.

Players could be suspended for not having a "proper" job – with occupations like billiard marker and glass collector specifically excluded

– and one club was fined because their players did not work on the morning of a Cup final.

For all that, it was a more honest, less hypocritical code of rugby that was born in 1895. Tony Collins shows in this major work that there are reasons behind it developing the way that it did and that they are reasons as honourable as those behind the rise of any other form of working class self-expression.

It should be compulsory reading for anyone who believes that the game more than a hundred years later is merely about competing for the same shiny suits and corporate contracts.

Dave Hadfield

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 The complete book of the World Cup By Chris Freddi (Collins Willow, £14.99)
- 2 Flat Back Four – the tactical game By Andy Gray with Jim Drewett (Boxtree £14.99)
- 3 Athletics 1998 Edited by Peter Matthews (SportsBooks £14.95)
- 4 The Story of the World Cup By Brian Glanville (Faber and Faber £9.99)
- 5 Bestie – Portrait of a Legend By Joe Lovejoy (Macmillan, £16.99)
- 6 Football in Sun and Shadow By Eduardo Galeano (Fourth Estate £5.99)
- 7 The Beautiful Game: A Journey Through Latin American Football. By Chris Taylor (Gollancz £16.99)
- 8 You Guys Are History! By Devon Malcolm (Collins, £16.99)
- 9 Manchester United Ruined My Life By Colin Schindler (Headline £12.99)
- 10 A Civil War: Army v Navy. By John Feinstein (Bay Books, £9.99)

Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530)

هنا من الأصل

Creative players the key to an England win

IT IS generally accepted that England will play both Paul Ince and David Batty in midfield today, but to my mind that will be a mistake. They are too similar and against Tunisia, in a game we must win, we can't afford to be negative or have the luxury of two holding players. Let Ince do that job on his own; he is certainly capable.

Batty does not push enough balls forward and he doesn't score many goals. We need more creative players in the midfield area and that's why if it is going to be Darren Anderton on the right instead of David Beckham, then Hoddle might well use both the Manchester United lads, Beckham and Paul Scholes, in the middle alongside Ince.



JACK CHARLTON

There's also Robert Lee to consider; he is a better passer than he is given credit for and he has probably suffered at Newcastle with the arrival of David Batty and the

introduction of a more patient style of play.

My choice would be to play Beckham wide on the right. There is no better crosser of the ball and he is also quicker and goes past defenders more than the Tottenham lad does.

Anderton has experience in his favour but he worries me when he comes back to defend as he will have to do in that wing-back role.

The key to an England victory is to find Alan Shearer with the ball early and in the areas where he can take maximum advantage. That's where Anderton's role will be crucial as the right-sided player. If there's one thing that has disappointed me in the World Cup it has been the quality of the crossing.

The midfield players also have a crucial responsibility. I used to get sick of seeing Gary Lineker coming deep to receive balls or taking them with his back to goal when he was in the England team because it was a waste of his main asset, his explosive pace. I don't want to see Shearer doing the same. He needs the ball knocked into channels to run onto and use his strength and eye for a goal.

I've always said that the game of football is about looking up and seeing what needs to be done to bring most benefit to the team. For that to happen the player on the ball must have his head up to see what's necessary, whether it's the five-yard pass or a 50-yard one. What I've noticed with the England

midfield and also with their defenders is that their heads are not always up to take account of what is needed to best serve the interests of the team.

I'm sure Glenn will start with Shearer and Teddy Sheringham in attack. Like the captain, Sheringham is very adept at taking up the right positions and getting on the end of crosses.

In my view he took a lot of unfair stick from the media over his drinking session in Portugal. It was 13 days before England's first game - when are you supposed to be relaxing and when are you training? The fact was the coach had given the players a few days off. How many journalists go away for a few days off and don't sink a few drinks?

Michael Owen can be left on the bench for this game, ready to come on and use his pace if needed. It worries me that we are already labelling him England's matchwinner and pinning a lot of hopes on him. He's only 18 and so inexperienced at this level, a level when he will be up against the best defenders in the world.

Owen can play more of a role later on because what you will find at tournaments like this is that the managers have to adapt and change their teams according to the opposition.

I would have preferred it if Glenn had come out and named his team yesterday and put all this speculation and talk about who will play where to bed. There is

something to be said for naming the side in advance. It strikes a positive note and tells the opposition that you hold no fears about them; that you are supremely confident in your own team and its methods.

As I said at the start this is a game England have to win. If we drop points then we will be an uphill task in the other group fixtures against Romania and Colombia. The pressure will be on our backs but they are used to that. Every week in the Premiership they will be told to go out and keep up the pace of their game, not to drop to the tempo of the other side. If we do that, if we work as hard as Tunisia, will do then I am confident England will start with a win and we can all settle down and relax.

Kasperczak's shock troupe

BY PHIL SHAW
in Avignon

ON A balmy evening in the centre of Montellimar, the small Provençal town where Tunisia are putting the final touches to their preparations for today's meeting with England in Marseilles, the North African community have taken to their cars and are jamming the roads with horns blaring.

The sight of hundreds of red and white Tunisian flags adorning buildings and street lamps could lead an outsider to assume that the cavalcade is in honour of the team. It turns out to be a wedding celebration. Out in the suburb of Montbroucher-sur-Jabron, the players who will stand between Glenn Hoddle and a positive start to the World Cup campaign are watched by only a handful of admirers.

The ground where Tunisia have trained for their biggest match since 1978 - when they beat Mexico and drew with the then-holders, West Germany, in the finals - has the impressive title of Stade de l'Hippodrome. If the name conjures up faded vaudeville grandeur, the reality is one covered terrace which would hold 200 spectators at most.

The rest resembles nothing so much as a municipal park. It is a modest setting for a nation of modest resources and expectations, light years removed from the high-rise stands of the Stade Velodrome in Marseilles. As the players sign autographs, the dozen or so journalists - which in itself must be a record low for the tournament - are told to make their way to the press conference.

Another Spartan surprise: after the all-digital information super-highway madness of the media centres in the big cities, we are ushered to a dingy dressing-room where the smell of Deep Heat still clings to the fixtures and fittings. The reporters squeeze in where many an amateur must have sat down the decades to take a half-time rollicking from the gaffer.

The Tunisia coach, Henryk Kasperczak, finally arrives and faces us across a bare table. With his Kirk Douglas-style quiff of silver hair, the former Polish international defend-



Henryk Kasperczak fraternises with the local support for his Tunisia side at the team's headquarters in Montellimar

er looks older than his 51 years. But this will be no routine procession of platitudes; he has an announcement to make.

"As of today, I am the new manager of Bastia," Kasperczak explains. "I have waited for the Tunisian football federation to make a proposition to me but they have not done so. Now at least I know where I will be next season, so that we can get on with the World Cup."

Bastia, based on the island of Corsica, are a perennial mid-table outfit in the French First Division. Kasperczak, who has coached at Metz, Strasbourg, St Etienne, Racing Club Paris and Montpellier, goes on to reveal that his first recruit will be Tunisia's Brazilian-born defender, Jose Clayton.

While his return to club football has been mooted for some time, the timing of the announcement seems injudicious. Kasperczak insists it will not affect morale and says he is concentrating solely on the England match. However, Tunisia's players could clearly have done without the uncertainty of not knowing who will be in charge once they leave France.

Kasperczak, who has also led Tunisia to the African Nations' Cup final and the Olympics during his four-year tenure, confesses that his greatest concern is England's sheer physical power. He mentions the aerial strength of Alan Shearer, Teddy Sheringham and Tony Adams, but adds: "They have some good players, but no great players."

"They have proved nothing so far, unlike Brazil, and have won nothing except for the Le Tournoi last year. We have nothing to lose against England. We're physically and tactically prepared and we're looking forward to it."

The relative strength of league football in Tunisia, which has gone professional during Kasperczak's reign and enjoys subsidies from the state as well as corporate sponsorship, is proving a double-edged sword. Players are content to stay at home, enjoying a high standard of living, rather than developing their skills in Europe.

Only four of the squad play abroad. Kasperczak will inherit the former West Ham trialist goalkeeper, Ali Boumnijel, at Bastia, while

Mehdi Ben Simane and Zubeir Beye play in the German Second Division. The striker Adel Sellimi, registered with Nantes, but on long-term loan to the Spanish minnows Real Jaen, takes heart from the performances of other African and Arab sides in the finals. He hopes that Tunisia can be to France 98 what Cameroon were to Italia 90.

"There is always one team that shocks the World Cup," he says. "We believe it could be us this time. England expect a comfortable victory but that could play into our hands."

"The whole thing is massive for our country, and a great opportunity for all the players. A good tournament can open the doors to playing for a big team in Europe - maybe even in England."



DIARY

WITH GERMANY nothing is left to chance. Meticulously organised as ever, the coach Bert Vogts hands every player a daily schedule detailing their every move. Asked on Saturday to outline the scheduling for a 24-hour period which saw his squad vacate their training camp in the south to fly to Paris for their opening game against the United States, Vogts began: "9.30 am: wake-up time - we've already done that. 10.15: leave for airport - don't forget brown shoes, light suit and flip-flops. 11.10: take-off. 12.30: arrival - God willing, etc etc. Asked if he had a copy of the schedule for the day of the final, Vogts joked: "For the 12th of July? That's in my other pocket."

A SUPERMARKET plan to lift World Cup misery for thousands of football widows has been scrapped because of a jealous wife. An ASDA store in Swansea had booked Steve James, a body-builder, to flex his muscles for women shoppers at the checkout every time England and Scotland were in action, only for him to cry off when his better half got to hear of it. Tony Williams, the store manager, said yesterday: "It seems he hadn't told his wife about the job and she was less than happy at the thought of him posing for thousands of other women."

IT SHOULD have surprised no one that the Netherlands v Belgium game ended goalless and with criticism of Belgium's negative tactics. After all, the Belgian

mascot glories under the name of 'Diabolito'.

A STREET called 'Football' and situated in the Yorkshire village of West Yeadon lays claim to the game's most fervent supporters. There's a Moore at number 28, a Little at 5, an Allan at 18. Anderson lives at 38 and for Scottish interest there's Lawrie at number 50. Recently transferred from the street to other locations have been a Robson (9), Lee (25) and Lawton at 27. Houses are called Offside, Left Back and Hat Trick and a 14-foot high black and white football is painted onto the end house wall. The street is so named because it is built on the site of an old pitch.

A £2m bonus awaits Sol Campbell if he helps England win the World Cup - and it will come out of German pockets. The Tottenham defender signed a three-year deal worth £1m with the German boot manufacturers Uhlsport, with a massive reward, trebling the initial payment, written in should England lift the game's biggest prize, his booty made up of royalties from an exclusive Sol line of clothing and football equipment. Uhlsport's managing director, David Spensley, said: "This is a colossal deal for a colossus of a player. It is probably the only occasion when the Germans want an Englishman to win the World Cup."

TREVOR HAYLETT

Els told to rest and may miss defence of US Open

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL
in New York

ERNE ELS, who is due to defend his US Open title in San Francisco this week, had his hopes of a quick fix to the back problems which forced him out of the Buick Classic after nine holes on Thursday dashed by a visit to specialist Tom Boers in Columbus, Georgia on Friday.

Boers, who has treated Fred Couples, Davis Love, Phil Mickelson and many other stars from the US Tour, worked with the South African for 90 minutes. But he was only able to offer rest as a cure for the back spasms Els has been suffering for the last three weeks.

"It's not good news," Boers

said. "Ernie's back is still very much a problem. It's still too early to tell," he added of Els' chances of teeing up on Thursday at the Olympic Club.

Back problems will be getting a lot of attention this week as Tiger Woods missed his last tournament, the Kemper Open, to have treatment from his physio in Las Vegas. Two of the hottest players on the US Tour, Fred Couples and Davis Love, also have lumber trouble.

Love, winner of the USPGA at Winged Foot last August, was so concerned about the state of his back that he hired a private jet to fly across the country last night from Westchester to San Francisco. That allowed him to break the journey at his leisure. Love, who recommended Els visit Boers, says he cannot sit

at a dinner table for more than 45 minutes.

Robert Baker, Els' coach, remained at Westchester over the weekend. "He just needs to rest it this weekend," Baker said, "but we're all keeping our fingers crossed for him."

With Els, winner for the last two years, absent a new name had to be added to the Buick Classic trophy. Jim Furyk, who scored an eight-under-par 63 late on Saturday, was joined at nine under by J. P. Hayes when the second round was finally completed yesterday morning.

Despite the threat of more of the thunderstorms which interrupted play on Friday and Saturday, the third round began with the players knowing the tournament had been reduced to 34 holes in an effort to com-

plete the event and allow those playing in the US Open to depart for the west coast. Not surprisingly, given the circumstances, a substantial number, 29, at the back of the field had already taken the decision to withdraw.

Lee Westwood, who began the round nine off the lead, immediately fell further behind when he took a double bogey at the par-three first. Westwood found a greenside bunker, took two shots to get out of the wet sand, and then missed from six feet.

Both Darren Clarke and Jose Maria Olazabal, who each started at the tenth, went to the turn in 35 but the only European to appear on the leaderboard was Jesper Parnevik. The Swede parred the first five holes to remain four off the lead



Els: no quick fix for back

but the biggest early mover was former Open champion Tom Lehman, who birdied four of the first seven holes.

● The Compaq European Grand Prix at Slayey Hall near Newcastle was abandoned yesterday when it was decided that no play would be possible after another deluge flooded the course. "Because we didn't complete 36 holes we do not have a result," said tournament director Mike Stewart.

Fire and Galaxy take Germany by storm

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
BY NICK HALLING

THE REST of the world may be captivated by the action in France, but the prospect of Jamaica against Croatia generated little interest in Frankfurt last night.

Instead, American football was the talk of the city, the home town Galaxy entertaining their local rivals from Düsseldorf, the Rhein Fire in the World Bowl. A sell-out crowd of 54,000 packed into the Waldstadion as, for the first time ever, ticket touts made a killing on a gridiron game on the continent.

There is no doubt that the NFL's European league is a major success in Germany. Both the Fire and Galaxy comfortably

out-performed their soccer counterparts at the turnstiles.

This the announcement of a third German franchise to be based in Berlin next season came as little surprise on Saturday afternoon.

What is less clear is whether the six-team league will expand to seven, or whether an existing team will be closed. Those under threat are the Barcelona Dragons, Scottish Claymores, and England Monarchs.

Neil Austrian, president of the NFL, has promised an announcement within weeks, amid rumours that one of the two British operations may be consigned to history.

"The decision will be based on a number of criteria," he said. "In particular we will be looking at the level of fan support, and whether the team

has a suitable stadium to call home."

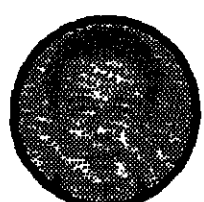
Worrying for Monarchs fans. Since the league's inaugural season in 1991, attendance has dropped from an average 40,000 to around 6,000 in 1998.

TODAY'S NUMBER

12

The number of players aged over 30 in the German World Cup squad

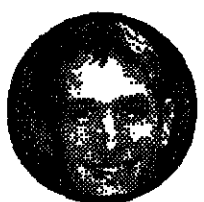
the www.france98.beeb.com line-up



GRAEME LE SAUX



JO GUEST



GARY LINEKER



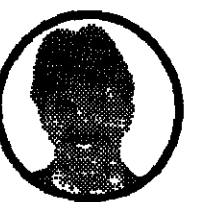
RORY McGRATH



GARY McALLISTER



RON MANAGER



MARK LAWRENSON



STUART HALL



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England in flux: 'Mental and emotional torture inflicted on squad saps players' confidence and energy'

Hoddle's mind games reveal only madness

IN A month's time Glenn Hoddle may be saluted as a tactical genius. He may in fact have done for football what Tony Blair has done for politics: New Labour, New Britain, New way of winning matches.

Hoddle, we are constantly told, likes to keep his cards close to his chest. Hoddle, the coach, sells dummies to his players and rival coaches as Hoddle the player once did to Spurs' opponents. As a player at the highest level there was little more to Hoddle than dummies. He was a hero only in his own head.

For a few of the more impressionable Fleet Street judges Hoddle became a cause célèbre: he was special; English football did not understand - and therefore could not appreciate - his genius.

A Garbo-esque mystique enveloped Hoddle. He was an enigma, possessing, his advocates insisted, special powers. A chap can become fond of such an aura. Alas, Hoddle the footballer won damn all where it matters, on the pitch. Graeme Souness, who was relatively easy to decode, kept winning all those cups and medals. James Gargan meets Greta Garbo: only one winner.

Hoddle has kept the hand he must play this afternoon against Tunisia so close to his chest that, as I write, the England team is unknown. Southgate or Neville, Anderton or Beckham, Beckham or Scholes... or Batty. Owen or Sheringham. For weeks now Hoddle has been playing mind games with, well, everybody.

This will bother his players, eroding their confidence, chipping away at, say, Teddy Sheringham's self-respect, an inevitable consequence of the endless speculation about his fitness to wear the England shirt.

On the eve of the most important series of games in their lives, England players such as Sheringham, Beckham, Owen and Anderton could do without the debilitating business of playing mind games. Subjected to the kind of mental and emotional torture Hoddle has inflicted on his squad, players' energy and confidence are sapped.

Worse, before any game, never mind a World Cup tournament, players need to concentrate, focus on their role, play the game endlessly in their mind. That is how you get into the character you must be on the day of the game. In that context I wonder how Sheringham and David Beckham feel. Correction, I know how they feel. Somewhat de-



EAMON DUNPHY

moralised and somewhat drained. Hoddle's calculation appears to be that men who are insecure will perform with more commitment. A more sensible deduction might allow that men professional enough to achieve the distinction of earning a place in the England squad have proved themselves worthy of trust.

This morning, as he and his players prepare for their greatest challenge, we can be certain of only one thing: that at least two of those players selected to start - possibly more - will go into battle believing they are on probation, out there on

'The team that takes the field this afternoon will not have played a competitive match together before. Not a single game. That is truly unbelievable'

sufferance, subject to their manager's whimsy. Hoddle has manoeuvred himself into an unenviable position. In the circumstances his claim last Thursday that his England side is the "best prepared ever" is ridiculous.

He evidently also believes that the cloak and dagger stuff creates problems for rival coaches. The assumption here is that men like Mario Zagallo, Daniel Passarella, Aimé Jacquet and Cesare Maldini go to sleep at night pondering the composition of the England team.

Are we really to believe that? Rival coaches may fear Alan Shearer and the Englishness he embodies but watching Glenn Hoddle's machinations they will sleep more easily in their beds.

The flux besetting England will indeed also comfort Henryk Kasperczak, the former Polish in-

ternational who coaches Tunisia. If England must be taken on, there is no better time than when they are coached by a man who clearly cannot make up his mind about his best eleven. A man who one day muses about playing Darren Anderton at left-wing back, the next selects to play him at right-wing back. A man who has been committed to playing Sheringham alongside Shearer for the past two years yet omits him from the final "closed doors" practice match because he had a few drinks in a night-club 13 days before the opening World Cup match.

That the lurid depiction of Sheringham's night out with his mates should impose on England's plans defies belief. Footballers, some of the greatest, have always enjoyed a few bevvies. Frequently, it was the men who liked a good night out who would be most likely to do the business on the football field. One recalls, fondly, Bryan Robson, Billy Bremner, Kevin Moran, Dave Mackay (with whose nocturnal legend Hoddle, as a former Spurs player, must have been acquainted) and several of Matt Busby's great pre-Munich side, Tommy Taylor, Dennis Viollet, and Mark Jones, all of whom loved to let their hair down between games.

Is Hoddle seriously suggesting that Dave Mackay's place would have been jeopardised for being pissed 13 days before a big game? Apparently.

Instead we see Sheringham thrust before the television cameras, canvassing for a place in England's starting line-up. Moreover promising goals, yes plural. Not one goal, boss, I'll give you two. This is the stuff of the lunatic asylum.

Coached by a man of more substance in less melodramatic circumstances, you could fancy England to go a long way in France. Maybe not potential winners but a serious team, they possess in Alan Shearer the great player so many of the other putative challengers are without.

What France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany would not give for a striker with Shearer's quality. Most of those nations will probably travel further than England. The teams that endure in this tournament will be built on solid foundations. The simple football virtues of passing, movement and good defending are always in vogue. Such things matter more than mind



The players Glenn Hoddle (far right) has on tenterhooks for England's opening World Cup match against Tunisia today (clockwise from top left): David Beckham, Darren Anderton, Teddy Sheringham and Michael Owen

games and systems that demand of good players that they play out of position. Darren Anderton is no more a wing-back, right or left, than David Beckham is, at this stage in his international career, a midfield general.

Sol Campbell will be exposed playing in that left-sided position in the no-man's land between centre-half and full-back. It is the position, incidentally, in which Gianfranco

Zola turned Campbell to score the winning goal for Italy at Wembley.

For Campbell, Tony Adams and Gareth Southgate (or Gary Neville) to be protected in the 3-5-2 system Hoddle prefers, England must press hard and tight in midfield.

Unfortunately a core value of this system as deployed by Englishmen - a hard tackling, ball-winning midfield - is going to be virtually impossible under Fifa's

new tackling law. Almost one week into the tournament we know that gifted players are being protected, allowed by law to turn and spray the ball around. It is going to be a steep learning curve for Paul Ince and David Batty. The rash indulgences of the Premiership will not be permitted in France. David Beckham and Graeme Le Saux are also destined for early baths should old habits die hard.

England stand on the brink of the abyss. The team that takes the field this afternoon will not have played a competitive match together before. Not a single game. That is truly unbelievable.

Glenn Hoddle may well have discovered a divine muse that eluded all the football men who went before him. But the smart money bets that a débacle awaits, contrived by him. Contrivance in place of conviction?

Crossing the divide into South's empire of senses

I THINK it was De Gaulle who said: "How can you govern a country that has 284 different kinds of cheese?" The concept of France as "L'Hexagone" implies a rather more manageable six-sidedness. But, when you slim it right down to the bone, there are only two widely divergent parts to France: North and South. But the divide is seriously Cartesian - the North belongs to the mind and the South to the body.

In taking the train from Paris to Marseilles I feel I am crossing a frontier (somewhere around Lyon). As the temperature outside rises a few degrees, and the predominant colour turns from grey to grape, we are also leaving the realm of cool, controlling super-ego and entering the land of the uninhibited id and unleashed libido.

Today the TGV is loaded with England football supporters, but they are following in the tracks of what has become an exalted tradition as writers and artists have flocked south in search of the empire of the senses.

Ernest Hemingway went South for bullfights, blood and gore. Andre Gide (and Joe Orton) came down this way on the look out for erotic adventures. At the age of 15, in the grip of more heterosexual fantasies, my best friend Griffo and I hitchhiked South in our quest for St Tropez and Brigitte Bardot, convinced that she had an unconquerable weakness for 15-year-olds. Turned out she didn't. But the occasional slap in the face from the reality principal is not going to stop any

ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



of us equating the North with rigid self-repression and the South with relaxed, liberated hedonism. The England team, for one, should feel at home here. It was Albert Camus, the great writer and goalkeeper, who did as much as anyone to mythify the South's sunny sensuality. The "Nordic" character, according to Camus, was typically angst-ridden and neurotically and solitary (he was probably thinking of his some-

time friend, the philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, who once said to him in a Paris bistro, "I'm more intelligent than you"). Whereas the "solar" culture of the Mediterranean was all Dionysian orgies and communion with nature.

I will check this out and report back while in Marseilles. Meanwhile, one pervasive myth I can definitely scotch is the idea that Camus once played in goal for Algeria. He rose as high as

wearing the No 1 jumper for the junior team of the Algiers Racing University Club, but he could never have played for Algeria because (a) he developed tuberculosis, which turned a promising goalie into a Premier Division writer; and (b) there was no Algerian team at the time. As Baron Pierre de Coubertin points out in his book *Essais de Psychologie Sportive*, the French colonial administration did not like native Algerians to play, in case they won and this went to their heads and sparked a rebellion.

In a way they were right. In his account of playing in Algiers, Camus puts the stress on the "association" side of football: the game is all about solidarity and brotherhood. But the reality was less harmonious and the Algerian football field increasingly became the arena for a showdown between pro and anti-colonial forces. The turning point was April 1958 when 10 professional Algerian players turned their backs on France and founded an independent Algerian team then based in Tunis.

But another of Camus's books, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, evoked the epic, drawn out struggle that is the World Cup. Glenn Hoddle, like Camus, might well sympathise with the heroic figure of Sisyphus, doomed to roll his rock up one hill only to have to roll it up the next. The last line of the book is one only a man of the South could have written: "We have to imagine that Sisyphus was happy."

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Staelens shouted out something that had to do with my private life in the past. Take it from me, it was below the belt. But I should have kept my temper under control." Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert, after being sent off for a clash with Belgium's Lorenzo Staelens on Saturday.

"I was very angry when I saw him lying there. I didn't see any elbow." Kluivert's Dutch team-mate, Jaap Stam.

"I think he is one of the best in the world and he can show that in this World Cup. His demeanour exudes confidence and, for defenders, that is refreshing." United States coach Steve Sampson on his first-choice goalkeeper, Leicester City's Kasey Keller.



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"Ian might be a little bit unsure of himself at first, after such a long time at Rangers. But he is a confident player, a big personality and I am sure he will soon settle in without any difficulty."

هكذا من الأصل

Art: 33,400

Argentina had too much variety for Japan who, lacking experience at this level, cannot possibly aspire to a greater feat than qualification for the second round. Nevertheless, Japan were never entirely out of it, making Argentina work hard for the ball and causing them occasional frights, especially in the last 15 minutes following Sensi's gloomy trudge to the touchline.

istic of South American football. Ariel Ortega and Gabriel Batistuta combined to open up the centre of Japan's defence and when a mis-kicked clearance fell into his stride Batistuta fired Argentina ahead from close range. Relaxed by this success Argentina found a lot less difficulty in establishing midfield control and threatened to take the game over.



With the tall Juan Veron becoming more and more an influence there was little then to suggest that Japan were

Put into effect at half-time it involved getting more players forward in timely support of the strikers who had been too often left isolated and outnumbered. But it is only when Sensi-

First, though, there was another alarm for Japan when a free-kick ricocheted in their goalmouth before Kawaguchi rescued the ball from the feet of the substitute, Abel Balbo. Shortly afterwards a cross-field pass opened up the right side of Argentina's defence and

[illegible]

Iranians rue lack of finish

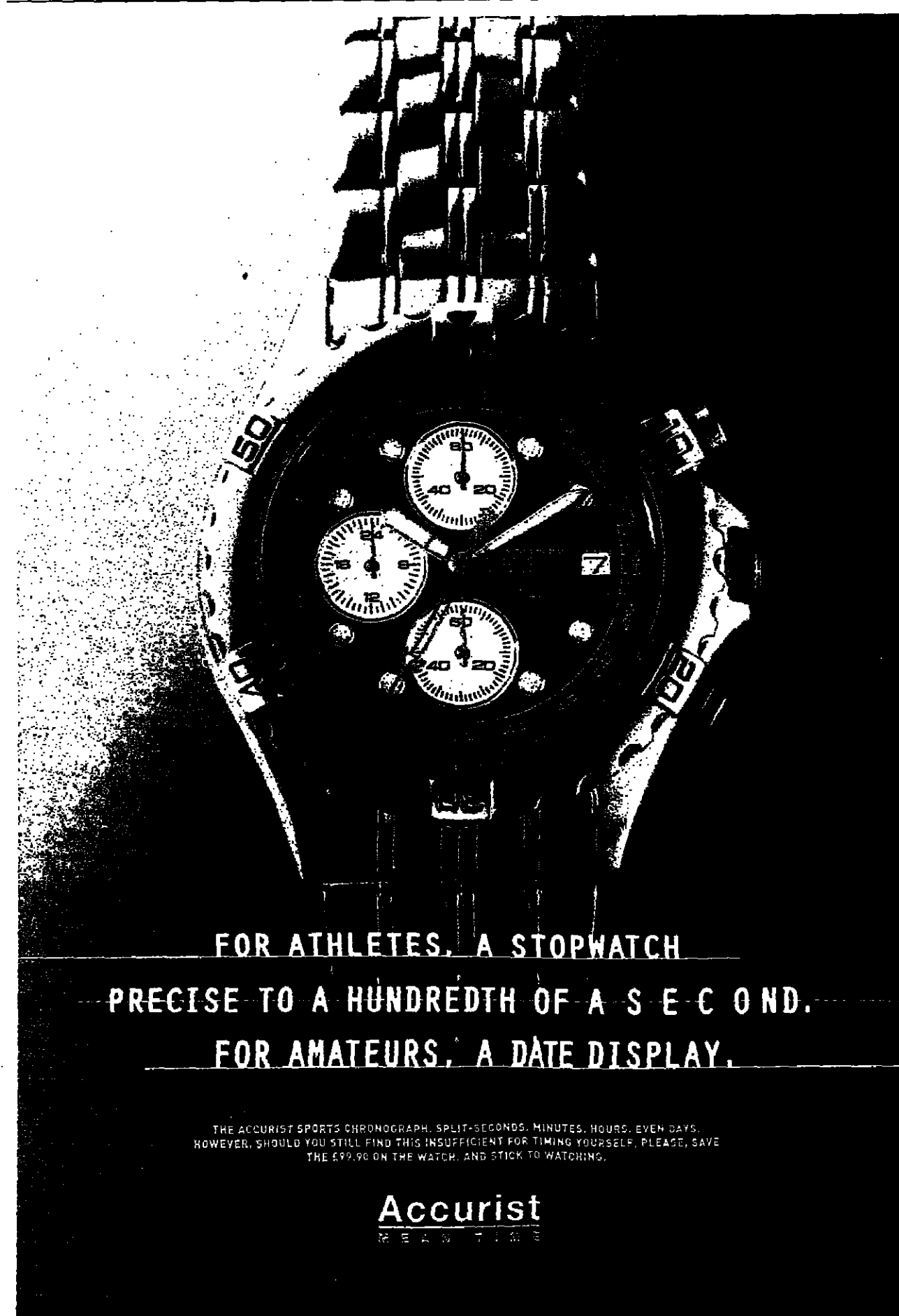
The first produced Iranian best chance of the first half. Khodadad Azizi found Mehdi Mirzazadeh Chal in acres of space in the Yugoslav right, but the Iranian midfielder hesitated and when he did shoot he drove the ball wide of the near post. A similar move then saw Mehdi Pashazadeh break clear but his weak cross was easily blocked.

Reformas A Teñida Novísima (Peru)

Kluivert ban is extended

France's coach, Aimé Jacquet, yesterday criticised referees at the World Cup finals. "I expected the refereeing to be more in line with what had been announced," Jacquet said, referring to the crackdown on violent tackling ordered by Fifa. "I think they are not severe enough. Something must be done to stop all those attacks on strikers which destroy the spirit of the game."

do Frenchman with a 250fr ticket to come down from 555 to 500fr moments before the start. Such a price in Toulouse yesterday would have been a bargain indeed. There were so many disconsolate Argentines and Japanese outside the Stade Municipal that the tout demanding 14,000fr for two tickets probably had no need to lower his price. Me? I took to a local bar where I saw the game on television. It was my first failure.



THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

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Compiled by Rupert Metcalf
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 All the scores



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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE '98

YESTERDAY'S MATCHES

Argentina 1 Japan 0

GROUP H: STADE MUNICIPAL, TOULOUSE. ATTENDANCE: 33,400

Goals: Batistuta 28
Yellow cards: 0
Red cards: 0
Corners: 4
Offside: 4
Free-kicks (against): 25
Coach: Daniel Passarella

Goals: 0
Yellow cards: 3 (Ihara, Nakanishi, Hirano)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 6
Offside: 2
Free-kicks (against): 37
Coach: Takeshi Okada

Running commentary

5 min: Nakata's floated free-kick causes confusion among Argentine defenders.
7 min: Five-man Japanese move emphasises their confidence and Argentina's nervous start.
10 min: Soma's header from slightly offside position again puts defence under pressure.
15 min: Argentina's first positive shot, from Lopez, flies wide.
20 min: Confident Nakata bends free-kick wide.
22 min: Argentina's first corner falls.
25 min: Good safe handling by Japan keeper.
26 min: Yellow card for Ihara (foul on Ortega).
27 min: Argentina undeservedly take lead. Ball bounces off Nakanishi to Batistuta who places in careful shot.
37 min: Batistuta stretches to meet cross. Heads against post. Ball rebounds to Lopez. Shot well held by Kawaguchi.
44 min: Ortega wriggles through three tacklers but solidly blocked by good covering.

55 min: Nakata breaks through midfield but wastes shooting chance.
61 min: Balbo brought on to support Batistuta.
67 min: Yellow card for Nakanishi (rugged tackle on Ortega).
69 min: Excellent save by Kawaguchi from Simeone as Argentina maintain long period of pressure.
72 min: Sensini off after painful finger injury when hit by ball.
76 min: Nakata again plays clever through ball. Narahashi slices careless shot away from danger.
77 min: Tired Japan let Batistuta clean through. Hits post but called back for offside.
82 min: Akita almost brings Japan joy. Header from close in slides tantalisingly past post.
89 min: Japan almost equalise as Nakanishi's cross is hit by substitute Lopes. Ball deflects for corner.
91 min: Yellow card for Hirano (foul on Zanetti).

Yugoslavia 1 Iran 0

GROUP F: STADE GEOFROY-GUICHARD, ST ETIENNE. ATTENDANCE: 30,392

Goal: Mijatovic 73
Yellow cards: 2 (Petrovic, Stojkovic)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 7
Offside: 5
Free-kicks (against): 12
Coach: Slobodan Santrac

Goal: 0
Yellow cards: 0
Red cards: 0
Corners: 2
Offside: 3
Free-kicks (against): 25
Coach: Jalal Talebi

Running commentary

2 min: In off-ball incident, Mirkovic injures ankle but recovers.
6 min: Nippy Azizi nips through penalty area without success.
8 min: Jokanovic tries hopeful long volley.
13 min: Iran keeper Niksa loses low ball but no Yugoslavian up with play.
15 min: Header by Djorovic clips crossbar.
19 min: Iran home in on organiser Stojkovic with clattering unpunished late tackle.
24 min: Azizi strikes low shot. Kralj saves.
30 min: Jokanovic guides header from corner a shade over as Iran keeper stays on line.
34 min: Milosevic's shot slightly off target.
37 min: Azizi again plays fine, cutting pass. Minavand unable to take advantage.
42 min: Yellow card for Petrovic (challenge from behind on Mahdavi).
44 min: Kralj deals hesitantly with well struck free-kick from Bagheri.

46 min: Milosevic and Minavand bump heads - Iranian off for two minutes.
51 min: Mahdavi again presses down wing impressively.
57 min: Jugovic powers straight down the middle. Defence holds firm.
60 min: Yellow card for Stojkovic (frustrated outburst to ref after foul).
65 min: Competent save by Niksa from Mijatovic's finger burning free-kick.
68 min: Stojkovic called off - in case of further trouble?
72 min: Iran give away one free-kick too many. Mijatovic hits free-kick wide of wall. Keeper unsighted. Ball flies past him into net.
81 min: Azizi cuts another superb pass, but Djorovic blocks Mahdavi's drive.
81 min: Mijatovic's shot well held by Niksa.
86 min: Again Mahdavi centres shrewdly. Dael heads and Kralj needs two grasps.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Spain 2 Nigeria 3

GROUP D: STADE DE LA BEAUVOIRE, NANTES. ATTENDANCE: 33,257

Goals: Hierro 21, Raul 47
Yellow cards: 3 (Amor, Nadal, Campo)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 3
Offside: 0
Free-kicks (against): 14
Coach: Javier Clemente

Goals: Adepoju 24, Lawal 73, Ollseh 79
Yellow cards: 1 (Okechukwu)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 6
Offside: 0
Free-kicks (against): 9
Coach: Bora Milutinovic

South Korea 1 Mexico 3

GROUP E: STADE GERLAND, LYONS. ATTENDANCE: 37,588

Goal: Ha Seok-ju 28
Yellow cards: 1 (Lee Min-sung)
Red cards: 1 (Ha Seok-ju)
Corners: 2
Offside: 0
Free-kicks (against): 16
Coach: Cha Bum-Kun

Goals: Pelaez 51, Hernandez 75, 84
Yellow cards: 2 (Ordiales, Garcia Aspe)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 7
Offside: 2
Free-kicks (against): 10
Coach: Manuel Lapuente

Netherlands 0 Belgium 0

GROUP B: STADE DE FRANCE, ST DENIS. ATTENDANCE: 75,000

Goal: 0
Yellow cards: 0
Red cards: 1 (Kluivert)
Corners: 9
Offside: 4
Free-kicks (against): 16
Coach: Guus Hiddink

Goal: 0
Yellow cards: 2 (Staelens, Defandere)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 1
Offside: 0
Free-kicks (against): 23
Coach: Georges Leekens

SPREAD BETTING

WITH A less than stellar record since that November night in Rome England have been drifting in the markets.

Another reason for their slippage - in their World Cup Index's Sporting have moved from 62-67 to 51-57 since the beginning of May and IG have gone from 25-29 to 22-26 since the tournament began - is that this form of gambling is no place for sentimental wagers.

That bet for the sake of having a bet just doesn't (or shouldn't) exist.

If there is little confidence in them doing well - although a profit would be realised on

the above figures if they reach the quarter-finals - there is little margin in backing them not to be do particularly badly either.

Sporting have been rather cunning with their 'Dodgy Defence Index'. England's excellent record - two goals conceded in qualification and nine more (to Chile) in nine games since - would seem to make them an obvious sell at 11-14.

However, even assuming Seaman and co will play more than three games they will still not approach the leakage suffered by the likes of Japan, Tunisia and Jamaica in the

group games so this is a temptation worth avoiding. It's an enormous cop-out but supporting England is nerve wracking enough without wondering if Ladbrokes' 2.4-2.7 total goals is on the low side.

Avoid entirely. A sell on the total goals between Germany and USA should keep the betting eye in.

World Cup cliché-mongers would have us believe that the former are slow starters while America have an uninspiring striking partnership of Wendie and Wegerle (or Hejduk). A goalfest is unlikely.

Richard Wetherell

TODAY'S MATCHES

England v Tunisia

GROUP G: STADE VELODROME, MARSEILLES. KICK-OFF: 13.30 BST

LE SAUX	GHODHANE	CHOUCHANE
CAMPBELL	BATTY	CLAYTON
SEAMAN	ADAMS	INCE
SHERINGHAM	SELLINI	SOUAYAH
SCHOLLES	SHEARER	BEN SLIMANE
SOUTHGATE	ANDERTON	CHIH
PROBABLE TEAMS		

WEATHER: Partly cloudy.
Temperature: 21CREFEREE: MASAVOSHI OKADA (JAPAN)
TV: LIVE: BBC1, 10 LIVE: EUROSPORT 1, 20

ENGLAND

1 David Seaman Arsenal
2 Sol Campbell Tottenham Hotspur
3 Graeme Le Saux Chelsea
4 Paul Ince Liverpool
5 Tony Adams Arsenal
6 Gareth Southgate Aston Villa
7 David Beckham Manchester Utd
8 Alan Shearer Newcastle Utd
9 Alan Shearer Newcastle Utd
10 Teddy Sheringham Manchester Utd
11 Steve McManaman Liverpool
12 Gary Neville Manchester Utd
13 Nigel Martyn Leeds Utd
14 Darren Anderson Tottenham
15 Paul Merson Middlesbrough
16 Paul Scholes Manchester Utd
17 Robert Lee Newcastle Utd
18 Martin Keown Arsenal
19 Les Ferdinand Tottenham
20 Michael Owen Liverpool
21 Tim Flowers Blackburn Rovers
Coach: Glenn Hoddle

TEAM NEWS

ENGLAND: The whispers around the camp suggest that Teddy Sheringham will be preferred to Michael Owen and Darren Anderson to David Beckham, the only ever-present in the qualifying group.

TUNISIA: Midfielder Sirajeddine Chih, recovered from a chest infection, is expected to play, but fellow midfielder Zubeir Beye is doubtful.

Previous meetings: 2 Jun 1990 (Tun, friendly): Tunisia 1 England 1.

TUNISIA

1 Chokri El-Ouer Esperance
2 Imed Ben Yunes Ettouale Sahel
3 Sami Trabelsi CS Sfaxien
4 Mounir Boukadda Ettouale Sahel
5 Harem Trabelsi CS Sfaxien
6 Ferid Chouchane Ettouale Sahel
7 Tarek Thabet Esperance
8 Zubeir Beye Freiburg
9 Rached Jelassi Ettouale Sahel
10 Kals Ghodhane Ettouale Sahel
11 Adel Sellimi Real Jén
12 Mourad Melki Olympique Béja
13 Riadh Bouazizi Ettouale Sahel
14 Sirajeddine Chih Esperance
15 Slender Souayah CS Sfaxien
16 Radhouane Salhi Ettouale Sahel
17 Jose Clayton Freiburg
18 Mehdi Ben Slimane Freiburg
19 Fayçal Ben Ahmed Esperance
20 Sabri Jaballah Club Africain
21 Khalid Badra Esperance
22 Ali Boummel Bastia
Coach: Henryk Kasperczak

Romania v Colombia

GROUP G: STADE GERLAND, LYONS. KICK-OFF: 16.30 BST

CIBOTARIU	MUNTEANU	FINCON	CABRERA
FILIPESCU	ILE	ASPRILLA	PALACIOS
STELIA	NAGI	VALDERRAMA	MONDRAGON
GHEORGHE POPESCU	MOLDOVAN	ARISTIZABAL	BERNARDEZ
PETRESCU	GALCA	SEBNA	SANTA
GABRIEL POPESCU	PROBABLE TEAMS	LOZANO	

WEATHER: Cloudy, chance of thunderstorms.
Temperature: 19CREFEREE: AN-YAN LIM KEE CHONG (MAURITIUS)
TV: LIVE: ITV 4, 15; EUROSPORT 4, 20

ROMANIA

1 Dumitru Songuciu Kocaelispor
2 Dan Petrescu Chelsea
3 Cristian Dabala Rapid Bucuresti
4 Anton Dobos AEK Athens
5 Cosandean Galca Espanol
6 Gheorghe Popescu Galatasaray
7 Marius Lacatus Steaua Bucuresti
8 Dorinel Munteanu Cologne
9 Viorel Moldovan Coventry City
10 Gheorghe Hagi Galatasaray
11 Adrian Ilie Valencia
12 Bogdan Stelea Salamina
13 Liviu Cioba National Bucharest
14 Iulian Filipescu Rapid Bucuresti
15 Lucian Marinescu Rapid Bucuresti
16 Gabriel Popescu Salamina
17 Iliu Dumitrescu Adante
18 Iulian Filipescu Rapid Bucuresti
19 Ovidiu Songuciu PSV Eindhoven
20 Tibor Selymes Anderlecht
21 Gheorghe Crivoveanu Real Sociedad
22 Florian Prohaska Unio Craiova
Coach: Anghel Iordnescu

TEAM NEWS

COLOMBIA: The old guard, Carlos Valderrama, Faustino Asprilla and Freddy Rincon, are all expected to play.

ROMANIA: Liviu Ciobaaru is likely to win only his fifth cap in defence. Iulian Filipescu will replace left wing-back Tibor Selymes, who has an ankle injury.

Previous meetings: 18 Jun 1994 (Los Angeles, World Cup final): Colombia 1 Romania 3.

COLOMBIA

1 Oscar Cordoba Boca Juniors
2 Ivan Cordoba San Lorenzo
3 Ever Palacios Atletico Nacional
4 Jose Santa Atletico Nacional
5 Jorge Bermudez Boca Juniors
6 Maurizio Serna Boca Juniors
7 Anthony De Armas Barcelona (Ec)
8 Harold Lozano Valladolid
9 Adolfo Valencia Independiente (Col)
10 Carlos Valderrama Miami Fusion
11 Faustino Asprilla Parma
12 Miguel Calero Atletico Nacional
13 Wilmer Cabrera Millonarios
14 Jorge Bolaño Junior Barranquilla
15 Victor Aristizabal Sao Paulo
16 Antonio Moreno Deportes Tolima
17 Andres Estrada Atletico Nacional
18 Iliu Perez Deportivo Cali
19 Freddy Rincon Corinthians
20 Hamilton Ricard Middlesbrough
21 Lelito Pradado Santa Fe Bogota
22 Raul Gonzalez Independiente (Arg)
Coach: Hernan Darío Gomez

Germany v USA

GROUP E: PARC DES PRINCES, PARIS. KICK-OFF: 20.00 BST

KOHLER	MOLLER	JONES	DOOLEY
HASSLER	WYNALDA	DEERING	BURNS
KOPKE	KLINSMANN	REYNA	POPE
THOR	JEREMIES	HEINICH	BECK
WORKS	BERNHOF	HEINICH	BECK
HEINICH	PROBABLE TEAMS	RAMOS	BECK

WEATHER: Chance of thunderstorms.
Temperature: 9CREFEREE: SAID BELLOUA (MOROCCO)
TV: LIVE: BBC1, 7, 20; EUROSPORT 7, 20

GERMANY

1 Andreas Köpke Middlesbrough
2 Christian Wörns Bayer Leverkusen
3 Jörg Heinrich Borussia Dortmund
4 Jürgen Kohler Borussia Dortmund
5 Thomas Helmer Bayern Munich
6 Olaf Thon Schalke 04
7 Andy Möller Borussia Dortmund
8 Lothar Matthäus Bayern Munich
9 Ulf Kirsten Bayer Leverkusen
10 Thomas Häßler Karlsruhe
11 Olaf Marschall Kaiserslautern
12 Oliver Kahn Bayern Munich
13 Jens Jeremies 1860 Munich
14 Jürgen Klinsmann Tottenham
15 Stefan Freund Borussia Dortmund
16 Dietmar Hamann Bayern Munich
17 Christian Ziege Tottenham
18 Jürgen Klinsmann Tottenham
19 Stefan Reuter Borussia Dortmund
20 Oliver Bierhoff Udinese
21 Michael Tarnat Bayern Munich
22 Jens Lehmann Schalke 04
Coach: Berti Vogts

TEAM NEWS

GERMANY: Christian Ziege is doubtful because of illness while Thomas Helmer is not fully fit after a thigh strain. If Ziege is unable to play, coach Berti Vogts could switch Jörg Heinrich to the left and bring in Stefan Reuter on the right.

USA: No publicised injury worries.

Previous meetings: 18 Dec 1993 (San Francisco, friendly): USA 0 Germany 3, 13 Jun 1995 (Chicago, US Cup): USA 3 Germany 4.

UNITED STATES

1 Brad Friedel Liverpool
2 Frankie Hejduk Tampa Bay Mutiny
3 Eddie Pope Washington DC Utd
4 Mike Burns New England Revolution
5 Thomas Dooley Columbus Crew
6 David Regis Karlsruhe
7 Rocco Wacziarg Tampa Bay Mutiny
8 Ernie Stewart NAC Breda
9 Joe-Max Moore New England
10 Rob Rouse WVU Metrostars
11 Eric Wynalda San Jose Clash
12 Jeff Agoos Washington DC Utd
13 Collin Jones Los Angeles Galaxy
14 Predrag Radosavljevic Kansas City
15 Chad Deering VFL Wolfsburg
16 Jürgen Sommer Columbus Crew
17 Marcelo Balboa Colorado Rapids
18 Kasey Keller Leicester City
19 Brian Mullan Columbus Crew
20 Brian McBride Columbus Crew
21 Claudio Reyna VFL Wolfsburg
22 Alexi Lalas WVU Metrostars
Coach: Steve Sampson

WORLD CUP BETTING

DESPITE MEDIOCRE recent form in friendlies England should beat Tunisia (perhaps 2-0) at Marseilles this afternoon. He has not exactly promised to be the force he was in Euro 96 since returning from injury but, even so, Shearer looks a fair bet to be first goalscorer.

Romania, although plagued by internal disputes, have a touch of class and should beat Colombia (maybe 3-1), whose defensive frailties were ruthlessly exposed by Germany recently, in Lyons. Ilie is their prime striker and could be the one to be on for first goal.

Germany, fancied in this neck of the woods to win the tournament outright, should outclass the USA (maybe 3-0) in Paris tonight. Leading Serie A striker Bierhoff is the man to back to score the opening goal.

Ian Davies

ENGLAND v TUNISIA	
England	1-3 4-1 4-1 1-3 4-1
Tunisia	1-4 5-2 1-4 1-4 1-4
Goals	1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1
C Goal, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote	

ROMANIA v COLOMBIA	
Romania	1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1
Colombia	1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1
C Goal, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote	

GERMANY v USA	
Germany	4-9 2-5 4-9 2-5 1-2
USA	1-2 1-2 1-2 1-2 1-2
C Goal, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote	

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Group A

Brazil 2 Scotland 1 (St Denis)
Morocco 2 Norway 2 (Montpellier)
Scotland v Norway (Bordeaux, 16.30)
Brazil v Morocco (Nantes, 20.00)
Tue 23 June Scotland v Morocco (St Etienne, 20.00)
Tue 23 June Brazil v Norway (Marseilles, 20.00)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goalscorers
1 Brazil	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	C Sampaio 1, og 1
2 Morocco	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	Hadji 1, Hadda 1
3 Norway	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	Eggen 1, og 1
4 Scotland	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	Collins 1

Group B

Italy 2 Chile 2 (Bordeaux)
Cameroon 1 Austria 1 (Toulouse)
Chile v Austria (St Etienne, 16.30)
Italy v Cameroon (Montpellier, 20.00)
Tue 23 June Italy v Austria (St-Denis, 15.00)
Tue 23 June Chile v Cameroon (Nantes, 15.00)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goalscorers
1 Chile	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	Salas 2
2 Italy	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	Vieri 1, R Baggio 1
3 Austria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	Polster 1
4 Cameroon	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	Njanka 1

Group C

Saudi Arabia 0 Denmark 1 (Lens)
France 3 South Africa 0 (Marseilles)
South Africa v Denmark (Toulouse, 16.30)
France v Saudi Arabia (St-Denis, 20.00)
Wed 24 June France v Denmark (Lyons, 15.00)
Wed 24 June South Africa v Saudi Arabia (Bordeaux, 15.00)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goalscorers
1 France	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	Dugarry 1, og 2
2 Denmark	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	Rieper 1
3 S Arabia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	
4 S Africa	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	

Group D

Paraguay 0 Bulgaria 0 (Montpellier)
Spain 2 Nigeria 3 (Nantes)
Fri 19 June Nigeria v Bulgaria (Paris, 16.30)
Fri 19 June Spain v Paraguay (St Etienne, 20.00)
Wed 24 June Spain v Bulgaria (Lens, 20.00)
Wed 24 June Nigeria v Paraguay (Toulouse 20.00)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goalscorers
1 Nigeria	1	1	0	0	3	2	3	Adepoju, Lawal, Ollseh
2 Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	
3 Paraguay	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	
4 Spain	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	

Group E

South Korea 1 Mexico 3 (Lyons)
Netherlands 0 Belgium 0 (St Denis)
Sat 20 June Belgium v Mexico (Bordeaux, 16.30)
Sat 20 June Netherlands v S Korea (Marseilles, 20.00)
Thu 25 June Netherlands v Mexico (St Etienne, 15.00)
Thu 25 June Belgium v South Korea (Paris, 15.00)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goalscorers
1 Mexico	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	Pelaez, Hernandez 2
2 Belgium	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	
3 Netherlands	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	
4 S Korea	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	Ha Seok-ju

Group F

Yugoslavia 1 Iran 0 (St Etienne)
Yesterday Yugoslavia v USA (Paris, 20.00)
Today Germany v Yugoslavia (Lens, 13.30)
Sun 21 June USA v Iran (Lyons, 20.00)
Thu 25 June Germany v Iran (Montpellier, 20.00)
Thu 25 June USA v Yugoslavia (Nantes, 20.00)

Group G

Today England v Tunisia (Marseilles, 13.30)
Today Romania v Colombia (Lyons, 16.30)
Mon 22 June Colombia v Tunisia (Montpellier, 16.30)
Mon 22 June Romania v England (Toulouse, 20.00)
Fri 26 June Romania v Tunisia (St Denis, 20.00)
Fri 26 June Colombia v England (Lens, 20.00)

Group H

Yesterday Argentina 1 Japan 0 (Toulouse)
Yesterday Jamaica v Croatia (Lens)
Sat 20 June Japan v Croatia (Nantes, 13.30)
Sun 21 June Argentina v Jamaica (Paris, 16.30)
Fri 26 June Argentina v Croatia (Bordeaux, 15.00)
Fri 26 June Japan v Jamaica (Lyons, 15.00)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goalscorers
1 Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	Batistuta
2 Japan	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	
3 Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4 Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Last night's match not included

Second round

Sat 27 June Winner B v Runner-up A (Marseilles, 15.30)
Sat 27 June Winner A v Runner-up B (Paris, 20.00)
Sun 28 June Winner C v Runner-up D (Lens, 15.30)
Sun 28 June Winner D v Runner-up C (St Denis, 20.00)
Mon 29 June Winner F v Runner-up E (Montpellier, 15.30)
Mon 29 June Winner E v Runner-up F (Toulouse, 20.00)
Tue 30 June Winner G v Runner-up H (Bordeaux, 15.30)
Tue 30 June Winner H v Runner-up G (St Etienne, 20.00)

Quarter-finals

Fri 3 July Marseilles winner v Lens winner (St-Denis, 15.30)
Fri 3 July Paris v St Denis winner (Nantes, 20.00)
Sat 4 July Toulouse winner v St Etienne winner (Marseilles, 15.30)
Sat 4 July Montpellier winner v Bordeaux winner (Lyons, 20.00)

Semi-finals

Tue 7 July Nantes winner v Marseilles winner (Marseilles, 20.00)
Wed 8 July Paris St Denis winner v Lyons winner (St Denis, 20.00)

Third place play-off

Saturday 11 July (Paris, 20.00)

FINAL

Sunday 12 July (St Denis, 20.00)



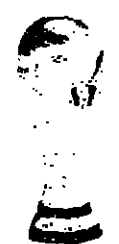
SPORT

MANSELL THE RECOVERY MAN P24 A GOLDEN BOY LOVED AND LOATHED P20

England secretive but assured



Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, flies the flag as his squad take a look at the Stade Vélodrome, where they open their World Cup campaign against Tunisia today

BY GLENN MOORE
in Marseilles

ENGLAND AT last left the storm-lashed Brittany coast yesterday afternoon for the sunshine of Provence but they continued to keep their own plans shrouded in mist.

Authoritative leaks from within the English camp suggest David Beckham, the only ever-present in the eight-game qualifying process, will be sacrificed to the return of Darren Anderton. But other sources hint that this is a smokescreen and, as in the build-up to Rome, all is not as it seems.

To some this is part of the World Cup game, every advantage is crucial, the cloak and dagger subterfuge as important as planning set-pieces. To others

it betokens a lack of confidence in the team, a fear of defeat. Will the Tunisian game plan this afternoon really hinge on whether Anderton or Beckham plays on the right flank? Will they change their team if they discover Martin Keown is preferred to Gareth Southgate?

The most important aspect of planning a match is the opponents' shape and method, not, except in exceptional circumstances, their personnel. If England run out this afternoon with Michael Owen in attack, or play Beckham and Anderton and omit David Batty, the security guards on the training camp gate will be justified.

That is unlikely. In the era of mobile phones and ghosted columns, Hoddle's attempts at secrecy are as futile as most supporters' efforts here last night to acquire a ticket for the

Stade Vélodrome. Besides, the framework and main planks of the team are well-known. The only question marks in a 3-5-2 formation are at right-centre-back, where Southgate will probably prevail over Keown and Gary Neville, and in mid-field, where Anderton is expected to displace Beckham and Paul Scholes assume the Paul Gascoigne role. In attack Teddy Sheringham should start but Owen may finish.

If this proves to be the side it is one designed not to lose when it might have been a team picked to win. Ideally Beckham would remain. Alan Shearer needs his crosses and he is a fine long passer, while Anderton would move inside to partner Scholes in front of Paul Ince. In practice, Ince and David Batty are likely to play, behind Scholes.

Nevertheless England should have enough to begin the tournament with three points. Tunisia are competent but no more. Their key players are either injured (Hassan Gabsi), inconsistent (Zubeir Beye) or out of form (Adel Selimi). They do have a genuine sweeper, but Khaled Badra is unlikely to have many chances to stride forward with the ball in the way Hoddle foresees an English player doing one day.

However, one of the lessons of this World Cup is that every team, whether Japan against Argentina or Scotland against Brazil, has periods of ascendancy. It is important for England to monitor closely the likes of Sellimi and Mehdi Ben Slimane when Beye has a spell of threatening possession.

There are two other concerns for England: the officials

and the fans. The referee, Masayoshi Okada, is a 5'11" 40-year-old Japanese. His linesmen are from South Korea and South Africa. Hoddle would have preferred European officials, or failing that, South American representation. While the refereeing has, so far, been good England are concerned that the atmosphere and occasion may lead to a rash of yellow cards. Worringly, some Japanese observers agree. Okada, who sent four players off in a World Youth Championship match, is not regarded as the best referee in Japan's J-League.

The atmosphere will be lively, maybe too lively given the breakdown in segregation evident at most games. The mingling of fans has been a bonus so far but English support always has that unwanted element. There has already been

fighting, broken up by riot police, between English and Tunisian supporters in Marseilles' Vieux Port. Given the city's extensive North African links the English presence, though large, may well be outnumbered.

England are confident. Shearer said yesterday that before they left England Hoddle told the squad: "Look, we are going to win this thing."

His captain added: "He has tried to get it into our minds that we are good enough to go out there and put on a great show. He told us we had a great chance of winning this thing and we shouldn't let ourselves and our country down."

Shearer, while accepting "you live and die by the next game", added that snap judgements on England's chances should not be made on this 90

minutes. "The history of the World Cup tells us you don't see teams at their best until the third or fourth game."

Today should still go a long way to discovering whether England will reach a fourth game. Hoddle's declaration, though private, has the same ring of certainty as the one Sir Alf Ramsey issued before the 1966 triumph.

Before confidence edges into complacency, however, England would be wise to remember the Tunisian coach's own mark on English football history. It was from Henryk Kasperczak's pass, at Wembley in 1973, that Poland put England out of the 1974 finals and prompted Sir Alf's departure.

ENGLAND (probable): Seaman; Southgate, Adams, Campbell; Anderton, Scholes, Ince, Batty; Le Tissier, Sheringham, Shearer.

Tunisia's shock troupe, page 26; Eamon Dunphy, page 27

WHAT
THE
EXPERTS
THINK

SIR GEOFF HURST

"I have no hesitation in calling on Glenn Hoddle to pick Owen to be Alan Shearer's strike partner this summer, starting tomorrow against Tunisia," the newly-knighted 1966 World Cup hero said yesterday. "I believe Teddy Sheringham might have hampered the final nail in his coffin with his insane behaviour in Portugal in the build-up to the World Cup. Owen can provide that spark of genius and turn a game with his pace."



JACK CHARLTON

"Michael Owen can be left on the bench for this game, ready to come on and use his pace if needed," Jack Charlton, Hurst's 1986 team-mate, writes in *The Independent* today. "It worries me that we are already labelling him. England's matchwinner and pinning a lot of hopes on him. He's only 18 and so inexperienced at this level, a level when he will be up against the best defenders in the world. Owen can play more of a role later."



OSVALDO ARDILES

"I think they did extremely well in qualification but since they have lost their way a little bit," the former Tottenham hero and World Cup winner with Argentina said yesterday. "I believe they lack a conductor in midfield. Somebody like Gascoigne. Unfortunately I believe the best times of Gascoigne are over, but they need somebody like him, somebody who can conduct the orchestra in midfield."



ALEX FERGUSON

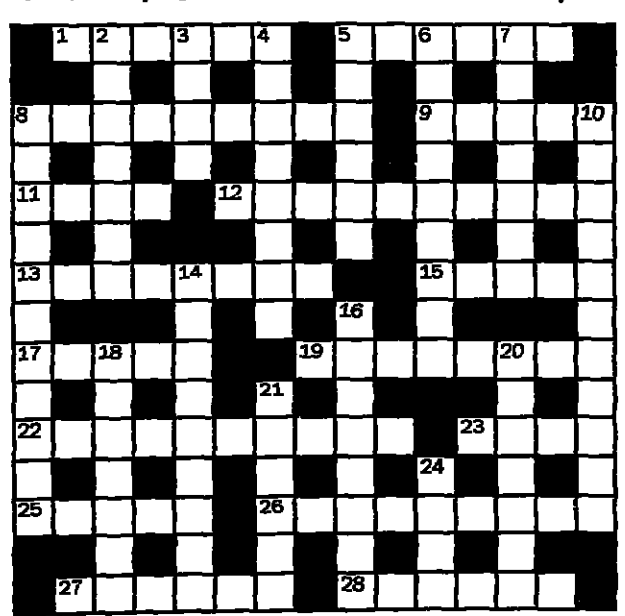
"The World Cup challenge cannot succeed unless someone emerges to take on the creative responsibilities that would have been handled by Gascoigne if his abysmal lack of condition had not made his selection unjustifiable. I suspect Hoddle believes, as I do, that Paul Scholes is the one most likely to fill the role effectively," Alex Ferguson, Manchester United manager, said yesterday.



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3637, Monday 15 June

By Fortia



ACROSS

1 Priest's society hand out religious book (6)
5 Present in reception (2-4)
8 Hard drinkers still in town (9)
9 Bug girl with pointless trick (5)
11 French department's united about direction to take (4)
12 Regard management as being out of proportion (10)

DOWN

2 Discount quarter of funds (7)
3 Policy file (4)
4 Careless hit and run (8)
5 Attack fool and trouble causes (6)
6 Try to hold mid-day party (4,1,4)
7 Sounds like officer's fond of fighting (7)
8 Animal comes out of Andrew's pool (4,7)
10 Course promoter? (8-3)
14 Vessel that's sailed ashore (4-5)
16 Cardinal and I cannot somehow agree (8)
18 Henry's racing madly around to cause annoyance (7)
20 Row about stray dog (7)
22 Rex is seized by violent depression (6)
24 Disable Frenchman on purpose (4)

13 Not as inclined to be indolent (8)
15 Admit inexperienced leader's gone off (5)
17 None make out ancient Italian language (5)
19 Affecting way quote is sent back (8)
21 I can't repay organisation whatever the cost (2,3,5)
23 Forbidding storyteller to be heard (4)

25 Style found in Ecuador I copied (5)
26 Group with song written by new church member (9)
27 Tell Pole to return money order (6)
28 Number getting further behind have gone (2,4)

Brown looking to make history

BY PHIL SHAW
in Avignon

NO SCOTTISH World Cup campaign would be complete without a scandal over players burning the candle at both ends. The difference this time is that the story concerns two of the Norway players likely to face Scotland in Bordeaux tomorrow in what Craig Brown describes as the most important game of his 40 years in football.

For the Scots, reports that Henning Berg and Erik Mykland were in a nightclub until dawn inevitably stirred memories of Jimmy Johnstone's antics before the 1974 finals and the controversy over a night on the town allegedly led by Mo Johnston 16 years later. Brown though was wary of reading too much into the episode.

"I've heard about the trouble in the Norwegian camp," the Scotland manager said. "But sometimes that can have a bad effect on a squad and on other occasions it can help to bond them together."

"We've got to ignore it, because we're not interested in what's happening in other camps. The main thing is that everyone here is fit. The players are straining at the leash," Brown knows that a second defeat would guarantee Scotland's exit. Intriguingly, Norway are in the same position - assuming that they do not take anything from their last group match, against Brazil.

"This is the World Cup for us for real. It's the most important game of my career, one that can help us to make history and help us qualify. We could just do with a bit of luck because we've been very unlucky three times not to go through."

Brazil, 2-1 winners against Scotland, are the best team Brown has seen. Even so, he admitted that his team were

"ashamed" of their defending for the holders' first goal and said there has also been "recriminations" about the second.

Tom Boyd, who unwittingly scored it, nominated Brazil, the Netherlands and France as the sides who had impressed him. Being in the crowd for the hosts' match with South Africa at Marseille was "a great experience," the Celtic captain said, although he was disappointed by the atmosphere at the opening match.

"I accept that the home team have to have tickets but it would have been better if Scotland and Brazil had got 20,000 each," Boyd added. "The better the atmosphere, the better you play. Bordeaux is a smaller ground than the Stade de France and should be more to our liking."

Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford and Hallowood Avenue, Oldham. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01928 340370.

Monday 15 June 1998 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Evening Worship

ABBOT ALE WORSHIPPED SINCE 1799

هذا من الاصل

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

So, this is the sexiest woman in the world

She's very slow jog, very *Baywatch*, very D-cup. And blonde and tanned and siliconed. And am I jealous? No. After all, who the hell is Jenny McCarthy?

TO A smart hotel in Knightsbridge, for the first British public showing of Jenny McCarthy since being voted "World's Sexiest Woman". I arrive two, perhaps three minutes late - enough to miss the off. Jenny has already been produced, and the photographers are going berserk with excitement. They're pushing, they're elbowing, they're shouting, they're at the top of stepladders, their flashes are going "flash-bang-flash". I can only see their jostling backs, so for all I know, it could be Ann Widdecombe in there, but I suspect not, because they are shouting things like "more leg, darling" and "ohh, that's gorgeous, Jenny" and, from the chap on the step ladder nearest to me: "Make love to me. Make love to me!". "Oh all right," I tell him loudly, "but not on Tuesdays because Hello! comes out on Tuesdays and I find I'm engaged for most of the day." He looks at me with an expression beginning with "d" which may be disdain, or disgust, but is certainly not delight, before getting back to work. "Look into the camera for daddy, darling... push your knockers forward..." I suspect he is not from The Lady.

Eventually, the photographers are called off. "Time. Gentlemen. Please!" Jenny emerges from the fray. She is 26, and is wearing the kind of strappy high-heels that make her soles vertical and a sort of black net thing over a fake, leopard-skin bikini thing. I'm sure there are proper, high-fashion words for these so I ask The Independent's fashion editor. She says: "Tacky", which I think must be a shop on Sloane Street, perhaps between Gucci and Prada.

America. Huge, even. A former Playboy Playmate of the Year, she's had her own MTV show, her own NBC sitcom, has just signed a deal with Disney TV, has a film coming out and quite a few more in the offing. She's been on the cover of Newsweek and Rolling Stone. Tap in her name on an internet search, and hundreds of web sites devoted exclusively to her pop up, including a naughty, photo-based one that promises: "We'll make your dick a happy camper!"

Now, of course, she is also "world's sexiest woman", as voted by the readers of FHM, Britain's biggest-selling men's magazine, in their annual poll. She was number four last year, when Teri Hatcher, Bond babe and Superman sidekick, won it. Jenny is very pleased to be the winner this time round. "When they called me, I just went: 'Yes! Yes! Yes!' It really does feel incredible, to have people think of you like this."

Still, she thinks she's going to concentrate on being a serious film actress from now on. Yes, she's taking acting lessons. She once went to a class in L.A. but didn't like it. "They said: 'Think your grandma is dead, which I didn't want to do.' Her favourite film of all time? Pretty Woman, she says, "which kinda says it all". Her heroine is Goldie Hawn. "That's the direction I'd like to go."

She teeters off though the photographers, who seem to be taking much longer than usual to pack their stuff away. They pull their guts in as she passes. "You've been great, boys," she cries. "But then I love British men! So strong, so masculine, so sexy, so... grrrrr!" She seems quite game, I must say. She goes. Breaths are let out again.

We meet again the following day, at the Virgin Megastore on Oxford Street. She is here to sign some special edition photographs of herself for her fans. We have about half an hour to spare, and sit on the roof for a smoke. She smokes American cigarettes called Capri. They are skinny and white, like lollipop sticks and don't, it seems



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

We are briefly introduced. Jenny says: "Hi, sweetie." I say: "Jenny, if you are very nice to me, I'll let you in on all my beauty secrets." She squeals: "Oh, I love that!" I find this quite hurtful. She acts like I'm joking or something. She is, of course, very slow-jog, *Baywatch*, very D-cup and blonde and toned and siliconed. I think if you asked an Essex man to come up with his ideal woman, he'd come up with Jenny. She is pretty yes, but she is more, it seems to me, painting-by-numbers pretty than interestingly, erotically or differently pretty. Now, I know exactly what you're thinking. I'm just jealous. But this is entirely untrue. I am not, on the whole, a spiteful or jealous person except, of course, when I'm being spiteful or jealous. Anyway who exactly is Jenny McCarthy? Although only just beginning to filter through over here, she is very, very big in



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NETWORK
INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS

A BALLET ABOUT DESIRE AND
OBSESSION. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US,
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'CHATTING, lying, stealing' World premiere by Ashley Page.
Programme also includes 'The Rake's Progress' by Ninette de Valois and
'Birthday Offering' by Frederick Ashton.
The Royal Ballet at the Barbican, June 15th-20th. Tickets from £9.

A great game of bluff

WHAT NON-World Cup people need is not ways of getting away from football. There is no way of getting away from it. What they need is ways of dealing with and relating to the football addicts by whom they are surrounded. So today I am providing a selection of innocent questions and remarks which non-football lovers can drop into World Cup conversations from which they would otherwise be excluded. They are designed to make you sound as if you are in touch and involved, without getting you into deep waters.

Here we go then with: -
THIRTY WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A WORLD CUP CONVERSATION WITHOUT ACTUALLY COMMITTING YOURSELF TO IT



MILES KINGSTON

All those people who say that England is going to grind to a halt at one o'clock today when England play Tunisia - have you noticed that they're all World Cup fans who say that? Nobody else will notice any difference

"I don't think Bulgaria can be entirely ruled out yet."

"How about that Marcelo Salas, then?"

"If all those World Cup tickets went missing, how come all the seats at all the matches are filled?"

"I wouldn't be looking for a room in Marseilles tonight."

"All those people who say that England is going to grind to a halt at one o'clock today when England play Tunisia - have you noticed that they're all World Cup fans who say that? I think that it's just possible that nobody else will notice any difference."

"I bet they won't be taking any prisoners in the USA v Iran game. And if they do, I bet Jimmy Carter will be sending in the helicopters..."

"I wouldn't write off Morocco just yet."

"How about that Hernandez then, eh?"

"I think the grass out there looks in remarkably good nick, considering it's the end of a hard season."

"Which one of these guys in the England team was it that beat up Ulrika Jonsson?"

"I wonder if everything is going to come to a grinding halt in Tunisia today..."

"I wouldn't write off Scotland entirely just yet."

"I wonder why Terry Venables is considered good enough to be a commentator at the World Cup, if he wasn't good enough to get Australia to the finals."

"I suppose everything comes to a halt at midday in Tunisia every day, anyway."

"I think the grass on these French pitches is looking remarkably good, considering the French haven't the faintest idea how to grow proper grass normally. Gravel, yes. Grass, never..."

"I tell you what, if England win today, I wouldn't be an English tourist on holiday in Tunisia tonight."

"I don't think any of this English team even looks FAST enough to catch Ulrika Jonsson."

"It's amazing that the French ever produced a painting called 'Déjeuner Sur L'Herbe'. 'Déjeuner Sur Le Gravel', maybe..."

"I tell you what, I wouldn't be a Nigerian tourist on holiday in Spain right now."

"I'm afraid Holland are flatter to deceive."

"We haven't seen the best of Brazil yet, I fancy."

"Is anyone ever allowed to play for Italy if his name ends in a consonant?"

"You know the Nigerian team were wearing black armbands for the late Sunni Abacha... Shouldn't an African team go into mourning wearing WHITE armbands?"

"I reckon the England team would look snappier if they had actually got Ulrika Jonsson playing for them."

"Tell you what, I wouldn't write off Mexico just yet."

"Are the Italians and Chelsea both called The Blues because Chelsea has got so many Italians playing for it?"

"Is the England side the only English football team that has got only English players playing for it?"

"The English front line of attack has got a very old-fashioned look about it, hasn't it? Lineker, Hansen, Lynham..."

"Somebody told me 'this morning why it was significant how many own goals there have been, but I've forgotten the reason now'."

"It's certainly been the year of the bald referee, hasn't it?"

More meaningless World Cup chat by and by...



A head of steam: the lining of a hat is prepared as the Royal College of Art gets ready for its fashion and textiles show. The first of a series of photographs by David Rose

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Not my Tory party

Sir: Today I will be "crossing over" the floor of the Chamber of the House of Lords from the Conservative benches to the Labour benches. It is not an easy thing to do. I have many friends in the Conservative Party, starting from my days in the Cambridge Union of 40 years ago. I realise I will be causing upset.

Much has changed in the Conservative Party - as it has in the Labour Party - during my adult life. Recent changes in my party have not been to the good. At the end of its period of office, just over a year ago, we had a Conservative government which was standing on its head its own established penal policy. Claims by the then Home Secretary that "prison works" and the introduction of measures which imposed mandatory sentencing on the judiciary were populist and unworthy.

Since leaving office the leaders of my party have been progressively turning away from our established policies towards the European Union. As formerly it was my party who was committed to a strong but compassionate penal policy so it was also my party who was committed to make the EU work as an economic union. It was my party who negotiated our entry into the EEC. It was my party who negotiated and signed the Single European Act in which we expressly agreed the convergence policies for bringing into being the single currency. It was my party who negotiated and signed the Maastricht treaty in which we expressly agreed the establishment of economic and monetary union, including the single currency, albeit reserving in a protocol the right not to enter into its third stage without the consent of our parliament.

Laying aside some unfortunate comments by front-bench members of my party in the Commons, we should look to our leader's Fountainsbleau speech of 19 May to know where my party now stands. It is, as Mr Hague told his audience, that we have just about reached the "limit to European integration". If we were to join the single currency we "could find [ourselves] trapped in the economic equivalent of a burning building with no exits" and "the British Conservative Party is against membership of the single currency now, and, subject to a ballot of party members, intends to oppose it at the next general election".

I have no doubt Mr Hague spoke with sincere conviction. I applaud and support the points he made on enlargement of the European Union and the need for greater accountability of its institutions, but the heart of this speech and the heart of the party, which he leads, is expressly separating itself from the further integration of the European Union and from the other member states in it. Far from seeking to be in the "heart of Europe" which, as expressed by our last prime minister, was my party's policy, we are now seeking to be apart from it.

The choice, for those in the Conservative Party who share my concerns, is to work inside the party to restore these commitments or to

join another party which is committed to a strong but compassionate penal policy and which is committed (notwithstanding some strong contrary views from within its ranks) to make the EU work from inside.

The choice is party or policy. Difficult though it is, I believe the only honest choice is one of policy.

I have known for many years the present Home Secretary (as I have known for more years the former Home Secretary) and I am wholly confident that he is evolving strong and compassionate penal policies which were once the pride of my party. I am also wholly confident that the Prime Minister and his government are committed to making the EU work and to ensuring the accountability of its institutions so that the best interests of the people of the United Kingdom and of the European Union, as a whole, are served. From Monday I offer the Government my support in the House of Lords in both those commitments.

DAVID HACKING
(Lord Hacking)
House of Lords
London SW1

Engineered crops

Sir: If Jonathan Jones is going to "play God" with our food, he needs to show a lot more ecological and biological wisdom than appears in his article (Comment, 9 June).

Food production must be based on sustainable agriculture if we are to have long-term solutions to our food problems. The most prominent genetically engineered crops about to be released are herbicide-resistant plants that perpetuate the use of toxic chemicals. Monsanto is doubling its production of Round-Up (glyphosate). This takes agriculture in precisely the wrong direction, perpetuating monoculture, destroying biodiversity and increasing rates of soil erosion. Weeds are necessary to maintain insect and hence bird diversity.

What could be useful from biotechnology is genetically stable transgenic plants that are resistant to, for example, disease and drought. But we need to know much more about the consequences of gene transfer before these are released in the field.

Professor Jones claims that transgenic technology is precise. By this he presumably means that specific genes can be transferred from one species to another. However, there is absolutely no precision about where a gene is inserted into a chromosome, and hence about secondary effects concerning metabolites, toxins, allergens and food quality. Furthermore the pathogens (infectious viruses and bacteria) that are used as vectors to carry the gene(s) into a plant are altered so that their host specificity is decreased. These vectors can recombine with wild-type viruses to produce superpathogens that can spread genes and disease indiscriminately.

To call this a precise science when we are so ignorant about these

secondary polluting consequences is playing the devil rather than God.
Professor BRIAN GOODWIN
Schumacher College
Dartington, Devon

Sir: The current debate about the pros and cons of genetic engineering and agriculture has made repeated reference to how long it has been going on. It may be worth summarising what we know about past genetic intervention.

It is clear that naturally occurring but rare plant and animal mutants have been picked out and bulked up for at least 10,000 years in South-west Asia, and possibly China. These are now familiar as crops and livestock species. It is probable that particular genes, for example for baking quality in wheat, have been targeted for selection for at least 5,000 years. From ancient illustrations of mules and hinies, it is also probable that the genes of separate species have been artificially brought together for at least 3,000 years. None of the actual genetic mechanisms involved is without parallels widespread in nature. There is no evidence in previous times for any forerunners to the direct manipulation of chromosomes we now refer to as genetic engineering.

These 10,000 years of intervention have not been completely benign. The narrowing of genetic range in foodstuffs has repeatedly been linked with environmental destabilisation, and the precondition for devastating episodes of famine and disease. However, it has also been the precondition for a modern world in which famine and disease can be combatted scientifically. Of course it is neither realistic or desirable to return to a world free of genetic intervention. It is reasonable nonetheless to assume that beneficial advances in genetic agriculture will carry a downside about which we shall need to be vigilant. In this way genetic engineering today is very similar to many other changes in agricultural practice in the recent and distant past.

Professor MARTIN JONES
Department of Archaeology
University of Cambridge

Teachers' holidays

Sir: The Government apparently has plans to shorten teachers' holidays. It makes one wonder if there is anyone in Whitehall who has the slightest idea what actually goes on in schools.

If it were to come about, headteachers would be forced to fill these five weeks with compulsory in-service training and endless meetings. Of course meetings are necessary but need to be held at intervals during the term as problems arise. They cannot all be lumped together during the holidays. As for in-service training, as a teacher with thirty years experience who is due to retire at the end of this term, I can honestly say that the vast majority of courses and training sessions which I have attended have been largely irrelevant and often a total waste of time.

Most of the teachers I know already do a considerable amount of work at home in the holidays, usually

trying to cope with the mass of paperwork associated with SATs, records of achievement, curriculum plans, preparation for possible Ofsted inspections and so on. Since I have taught for the last ten years in the private sector I have been largely protected from the worst excesses of this increasing bureaucracy, but I know what a burden this has become for many teachers. If they are obliged to spend an extra five weeks a year in school these tasks will simply not get done.

However, the proposed changes will not happen, for two simple reasons. First, if holidays were cut without teachers' salaries being increased by a very considerable amount (which they will not be), this would be a major disincentive to new entrants to the profession. Second, a very large number of married women would be forced to resign because they would simply be unable to make adequate childcare arrangements in the school holidays. The education system would be on the verge of collapse.

In order to raise educational standards we need better qualified (and therefore better paid) teachers, less meaningless paperwork and more resources so that they can do the job efficiently. It is as simple as that.
GEOFFREY HEATH
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Teachers have an incredibly demanding and stressful job - but so do lots of other people. My partner is a senior manager in the NHS, responsible for over 400 staff. She spends a great deal of her spare time and holidays preparing for the things that need to be done when she returns to work. Her salary is roughly the same as that of a headteacher. She has six weeks' holiday a year.

By all means improve the pay of teachers and recognise their dedication and professionalism, but is it not time to drop the notion that they, uniquely, need three months off every year to "recharge their batteries"?

DAVE ANDREWS
Wrexham, Chwyd

Mysteries of the jury

Sir: Many of your readers will have been baffled at the decision of a jury to acquit a 6ft 2in policeman who sprayed CS gas in the face of a pensioner who was sitting with a seat belt on in a parked vehicle (report, 10 June).

In a restrained and careful way the trial judge expressed dismay at the jury's decision, but that, of course, is all he could do. This was not always so. Historically judges used to imprison juries who did not arrive at the "correct" verdict until they changed their minds. It was Bushell's case in 1670 which established the immunity of the jury from punishment for reaching what the judges saw as wayward decisions.

Today the jury is commonly regarded as emblematic of a democracy and a bulwark against state tyranny. We put up with perverse verdicts because that is a price worth paying.

The problem is that despite a recommendation by the Bunciman Commission on Criminal Justice (1993) for the legalisation of jury research, such projects are still unlawful. We simply do not know, therefore, whether the means by which most juries arrive at their decisions are rational and composed or irrational and informed by prejudice.

Dr GARY SLAPPER
Director, The Law Programme
The Open University
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Sir: The recent tragic derailment of a German high-speed train raises at least one important side-issue: the reliability of eyewitness accounts. The media made extensive use of a Briton who claimed to have seen the accident and gave a graphic account of its being caused by a car falling on to the railway line, with which the train collided. The accident investigation however suggests that this was a fantasy (as seems likely from the state of the locomotive, which clearly had not hit anything), and that the probable cause was the earlier failure of a carriage wheel.

The extent to which the emotional shock of witnessing a tragedy can distort and fix memories is well established (as with the appalling crash of the DH-110 at Farnborough in 1952, in front of a crowd of thousands, where only about two of the witnesses had any useful or reliable evidence to give). Should we not be considering seriously just how much of the evidence solemnly and sincerely given in our courts arises from distorted memories of this kind?

SEBASTIAN ROBINSON
Glasgow

IN BRIEF

Sir: Does not Robert Fisk distort media coverage as much as those he criticises for referring to "disputed" as well as "occupied" territories in the Middle East ("US media mirror distorts Middle East", 10 June)? For nearly 2,000 years the Jews who were persecuted in or banished from their bit of the Middle East never gave up their claim to it or the hope of returning. Perhaps one day Mr Fisk can explain to his readers just how and when the land known as Israel became Arab land.
MATTHEW WARMAN
Cambridge

Sir: On the question of one-man buses and traffic jams (letter, 12 June), why do we not adopt the French practice of buying books of bus tickets from newsagents, thus eliminating the need for the driver to take money, give change and issue tickets? This would substantially reduce the time of every bus journey.
MALEES
Brighton, East Sussex

Sir: Last week I scored my first "ton": 32 miles in a day's sponsored walking over the North York Moors two days after my 68th birthday. Is this the optimum mix of miles and years for achieving this kind of century?
JOHN MANN
London NW2

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, theatre, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) remain on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now appear on Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now appear on Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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Six months of the best – and worst – of President Blair

SIX MONTHS is not long in the history of Europe, and it was never likely that Tony Blair would achieve in that short time the kind of shift in Europe's destiny that future historians would notice. That did not stop him making grandiose claims before "his" presidency started, in a typically Blairist photo-opportunity at the Eurostar terminus at Waterloo station. The Prime Minister's speech there was poised ambiguously between grand-sweepery and pledge-cardery.

On the one hand, he said, the presidency was a test, for Britain to "offer strong leadership" and for Europe to "embrace the need for change and reform" – a patronising formula with plenty of potential to offend. On the other, he ran through a six-point checklist for people to cut out and keep to make sure that he fulfilled his promises. Like the promises on Labour's election pledge card, they were carefully and modestly phrased in order to guarantee that they could be ticked off today.

First, he promised that he would "build support" for the third way in economics. Well, his declaration that "there is no left and right in economic management today, only good and bad", was received in stony silence by Socialist deputies in the French National Assembly, but they were so impressed by being addressed in French that it didn't matter. Pledge delivered.

Then he was going to "work constructively with our partners" to launch the Euro successfully. It was launched all right, without Britain, but in the talks over the appointment of Europe's first central banker Mr Blair managed to annoy at least half his fellow leaders, who were left to amuse themselves from lunch-time to midnight. Half a tick, then.

Pledge three was to start enlargement negotiations. In the diary already, but never mind. Done. Pledge four: "Common action on crime, drugs and the environment". Outcome: many meetings held, little real progress. Pledge five: "Build a stronger common foreign and security policy." Specifically, Mr Blair condemned the European Union's failure in the past to "face up collectively to external threats such as those posed by Saddam Hussein and ethnic cleansing in former Yugoslavia". But then, barely a month into the presidency, Mr Blair flew to Washington as the United States sought support for putting the frighteners on Saddam. Mr Blair barely mentioned his role as EU co-ordinator, seeming instead to revel in Britain's isolation as the US's staunchest ally. Meanwhile, throughout the last six months, the threat of Serbian repression in Kosovo was



known and growing. Mr Blair has done the right thing now, but how much better it would have been to have acted earlier – and how much more in keeping with the pre-presidency rhetoric.

Finally, the Prime Minister at Waterloo in December set out his overriding promise: "I want to involve the British people in our presidency." That pledge is, six months later, sadly unfulfilled. We report today the Labour Party's own assessment of public opinion. Attitudes to the single currency may have softened slightly since the Tory civil war has come off the front pages, but otherwise the public are doubtful about the EU and are becoming more so.

As Mr Blair declared at Waterloo: "We can only make Europe work for the people of Europe if, in turn, the

people of Europe feel that they have a stake in what Europe does." Judged by this measure, the Prime Minister's term in the chair was a damp squib.

His proposals unveiled today for reforming the EU's institutions – an "upper house" for the European Parliament and a standing committee of ministers – are a start. But they do not begin to measure up to the crisis of democratic legitimacy which afflicts the EU and which will be made worse by the expansion of the EU from 15 to 25 countries.

It is not just the internal machinery of the EU that needs to be overhauled, however, but the democratic machinery of member states holding the EU to account. It will be up to other countries now to drive that overhaul through.

Don't gripe at Goldman Sachs

WE WONDER what the ballot paper looked like. "Yes, I would like \$60m. Or: No, I think it is important to retain the distinctive qualities of Goldman Sachs as a partnership." The sums of money involved in floating Wall Street's last privately-owned investment bank are so great that it is tempting to see the weekend's debate among the firm's 190 partners as the cynical sell-out of down-home workers' co-op values. Tempting, but wrong.

Perhaps it is our recent experience of privatisation rip-offs and building-society windfalls which inclines us to jump to the conclusion that anyone making sudden large financial gains must be doing so at the expense of the common good. Or perhaps it is just British snobbery, which doubts the moral probity of sudden enrichment, but morality hardly enters the Goldman Sachs decision matrix. Some of the junior partners may be motivated by simple self-interest, in that they want to cash their chips while they have them, knowing that if they are sacked in the future they will get nothing. But most of them already have more money than any normal person could sensibly spend.

For them, the argument was about the firm's longer-term success. Should it follow the formula of past success, attributed to the fact that, unlike other investment banks, its people were effectively investing their own money? Or did it need the flexibility and power to raise capital of a conventional, shareholder-owned company to compete in world markets?

Those partners who voted to float Goldman Sachs on the stock market were not engaged in larceny. It was not even the case that the assets of Goldman Sachs had been accumulated by past generations of partners, as the firm was in financial difficulties at the end of the 1980s – its astonishing wealth has largely been created in the past eight years. We should celebrate their success and hope they spread the benefits as widely as possible.

Sir Richard Branson?

RICHARD BRANSON did not get a knighthood, and William Hague's spin doctors, who are rapidly catching up with Labour's skills in these dark arts, have suggested this may have something to do with the ubiquitous Virgin boss's refusal to urge his fans to vote for Tony Blair last year. Whatever the true explanation of Mr Branson's ongoing handle-free status, we have a simple proposal to make. He can have a knighthood if, and only if, he sorts out his dismal train service.

Elections are not the only way to bring honour to the Lords

THE NEW Britons love their gongs as fervently as the most dogged upholders of tradition. An acquaintance who has achieved a modest degree of public prominence asked me last week, "If you were going to the Lords, which title would you pick?" The dilemma had obviously been on his mind for some time. He had joined those who, at a certain stage in their lives, look at the House of Lords thinking not, "Blimey, I thought he'd been dead for years," but "Come to think of it, I could look quite good in ermine too."

New Labour's list of working peers, announced this week, will feature a number of thoroughly modern Labour Lords such as Melvyn Bragg and Piers 24's Wahed Ali, who are both tough meritocrats in their professional life and thoroughly loyal to the party in their political one.

Richard Branson turned out to be too much of an irritation. It does seem a touch harsh to excise such from the Tory nominations for knight-hoods someone who has created wealth, while elevating to the Lords Norman Lamont, the chancellor who poured carloads of sterling down the drain trying to prop up the pound before its ignominious ERM exit. Perhaps this was an in-joke in Downing Street: Mr Lamont's handling of the crisis made a significant contribution to Mr Blair's election chances.

But it is hard to get too worked up about the exclusion of Mr Branson or the actor and SNP supporter Sean Connery. Politics seized the reins of patronage from the monarchy long ago. It is a chance for governments to create a Great and Good that reflects

its own ideas of greatness and goodness, while delivering discreet snubs to those hopefuls who do not.

The fate of the Lords reform should exercise us a lot more than whether Mr Branson and Mr Connery get knight-hoods this year, next year, some time or never, because the shape of a second chamber affects democracy – and thus all of us – and not just the egos of the disowned. Hereditary peerages will go and rightly so. Any doubts on the matter are dispelled by listening to the arguments from their defenders.

The Daily Telegraph letters columns in the past week have offered appeals more ludicrous than Private Eye could ever have concocted as a parody. "I hope that Labour's proposals take into account the position of the hereditary Earl Marshal," writes a concerned reader. "It should be unthinkable that after hundreds of years the Fitzalan-Howard family, with the Duke of Norfolk at its head, should unceremoniously not be permitted a seat."

It may indeed be an unpelatable prospect for the Fitzalan-Howards. On the great scale of untidiness however, the end of their hereditary right to act as chief corset-tightener at the Opening of Parliament comes pretty low down on my list.

Lord Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords lamented: "We are the fuzzy wuzzies but they have the Maxim gun and we have not." This mesmerizing blend of political incorrectness, arcane colonialist reference, dose of bathos and the improbable vision of today's scion of the Cecil family as a Sudanese war-

ANNE MCELVOY
The Upper Chamber desperately needs reform. But its replacement should truly represent Britain

rior, gives a good indication of why his time is up.

But the enjoyable spectacle of the hereditary peers being thanked for their services and dismissed, should not blind us to the more important question of what sort of second chamber we want to result from this historical rout.

The raison d'être of the House of Lords is contained in its ultimate prerogative: to prevent any parliament from sitting for longer than five years and thus prevent an elected parliament suspending elections. This reflects its wider purpose, namely to check the tendency of executives to become elective dictatorships, to revise legislation and to send back the imperfect parts of bills that have been badly drafted. The Lords should also act as an early warning system,

alerting us that the executive is over-reaching itself and riding roughshod over legitimate criticism and advice.

All of these circumstances are as likely to arise under Labour governments as Tory ones. A reformed House of Lords should be so constituted as to check these dangers.

As usual when the British have to find a blueprint for change, the instinctive reply is that we should find a foreign model – usually some form of elected second chamber – and copy it. But an elected second chamber would not serve us well. It works best in America, where a radical separation of powers was enforced from the Founding Fathers onwards. But it is practical and useful reform we are after in Britain.

The American model only works because it is in tandem with a presidential system. The presidency assumes, *de facto*, many powers (such as the ability to commit troops) that are not clarified in the separation of powers. European models are imperfect – the German Bundestag acts as such an assiduous block on government action that vital reforms are throttled. The French senate is a supreme body, in thrall to the Napoleonic power of the president.

There are more ways of creating representative bodies than to vote them into existence. A second chamber should give the kind of people who do not want to become professional politicians the chance to scrutinize the performance of those who do.

The Reform Act of 1832 was successful in building democracy into the constitution, but it sidelined other forms of representation. Now is the

time to restore them. We need a second chamber that reflects national life in its broadest sense. And its composition should not allow political parties to wrest control of selection procedures and channel those elected under them to the will of respective party machines.

Why not take a slice of opinion through the country the other way? I should like to see an Upper House that is strongly regional in its make-up and contains representatives of the professions and business, as well as butchers, bakers, and candlestick makers, social entrepreneurs, child-minders, leaders of local ethnic communities, representatives from the non-established churches, voluntary workers and the police.

It would be a real People's Chamber, consisting of members nominated in their communities and selected by an independent commission. I am far more enthusiastic about an Upper House we can be bothered to argue about than about another arena dominated by electoral machines over which we have scant control.

The life peer system should be abandoned to allow those nominated to sit for a fixed period. Lord Ali may seem to us now, to be more of a denim peer than an ermine one. But even New Labour's gilded youth will grow old one day.

They will have entrenched positions to defend and old alliances to reward. Try as they might, they will become more like the people they were so anxious to replace. A seat on the board of British democracy should be for a maximum of 10 years – not a job for life.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you're in newspapers and magazines and are politically interested, you fight very hard for your beliefs. You might find that you are wrong, but I don't think so."

Rupert Murdoch, Media Baron

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Man is born to live, not to prepare for life"
Boris Pasternak,
Russian novelist and poet

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Marianne Lavelle and Julian E. Barnes, US News & World Report

Most observers of the Lewinsky case say that it will be two to three weeks before it becomes apparent whether the defence and prosecution are moving towards an immunity deal.

Prosecutors will be cautious in revealing their evidence to Cacheris and Stein until they learn whether the two plan to work alone or to co-ordinate a defence. Bradford Berenson, a Washington criminal lawyer, says that prosecutors obvi-

ously fear that Lewinsky has been protecting the President. And some close to Starr's office have noted that Cacheris is a close friend of the President's lawyer, Robert Bennett, and of William Hundley, the lawyer for the President's friend Vernon Jordan.

The White House, for its part, has kept mum on the implications of Lewinsky's new legal team. But Clinton advisers privately fear that Ginsburg's departure could open the door to an immunity deal in which Lewinsky would give

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

What happens next
in the Lewinsky case?

testimony damaging to the President.

Lewinsky's eagerly sought fresh start is, for the White House, an unwanted return to square one of the investigation. The President and his advisers

can only wait and wonder what the former intern will do.

Leon Hadar, The Singapore Business Times
Washington is holding its breath and waiting for the out-



come of the behind-the-scenes negotiations between Mr Starr and Ms Lewinsky's lawyers, with the pundits already sketching various political and legal scenarios that could result from a Lewinsky testimony. Congress censures Mr Clinton but does not impeach him; Mr Clinton being indicted and forced out of office; Mr Clinton resigns and faces a legal battle; and Mr Starr finds no incriminating evidence against the President and Monica becomes yesterday's news, Mr Clinton ends his term in office,

and Ms Lewinsky, at the age of 24, goes on to write her memoirs and sign the movie rights for her novel.

Elisabeth Rosenthal, Dallas Morning Post (US)
In an attempt to spare President Clinton embarrassment on his state visit, Beijing officials ordered bookstores this week to remove from their shelves a popular new book that details the sex scandals. The book, *Clinton: A President of Strong Drives*, is a 302-page quick-publish, quick-read.

PANDORA

REMEMBER WHEN Sinn Féin and the IRA raised funds from impassioned Irish-American zealots? How quickly the world turns. A recent report on the travel of US Congressmen reveals that two American members of the House of Representatives - Richard Neal (Democrat, Massachusetts) and Peter King (Republican, New York) - were given \$4,045 by Sinn Féin to fly to Dublin and give speeches encouraging votes in favour of the recent peace referendum.

In the States, politicians' trips like this are called "junkets" and viewed as a mildly obnoxious way to curry political favour. However, Pandora is sure that the Irish people were delighted to hear the views of a couple of American congressmen on a subject about which they undoubtedly know so much.

HIS BOOK launch party in Soho took place on a chilly, grey Thursday evening last week, but John Diamond's courage and humour lit up the interior of the Grocchio Club like a bonfire on a summer beach. Just a few months after undergoing radical surgery for cancer of the tongue, the broadcaster and columnist Diamond stood in front of a room full of British media mandarins, plus his doctors and nurses, to deliver, in his mending voice, a most eloquent, funny and moving speech. His friends were particularly pleased to see Diamond's battling spirits undaunted as he delivered a gibe at a supercilious *Evening Standard* book critic. He was warmly introduced by Melvyn Bragg, who has hailed Diamond's *Because Cowards Get Cancer Too* as "the best book of his generation". Later, when someone congratulated Bragg on his imminent elevation to the peerage, Pandora could not help overhearing the ardent Labour supporter reply, "It's rubbish, but it's nice rubbish."

TAKE HEART, British women, even though it's a World Cup summer you'll never walk alone. Your French sisters are apparently suffering from football widowhood in equal degree. The famous can-can show-case Folies Bergères has, for the first time in 130 years, introduced male strippers into its programme. "The World Cup is the time when women will be looking for a good time while their menfolk are stuck in front of their TV screens," said Frank Peyranda of the Folies Bergères. "This cabaret has always been the temple of women. But this time they're in the audience rather than on

stage." According to a survey by France's *Elle* magazine, 26 per cent of French women will go to see male strippers during the Cup. And 2 per cent admitted considering hiring a male escort.

RUSSIAN CONSERVATIVE General Lebed is the subject of a new book by former Tory MP Harold Elletson, but most of the talk at his book launch party last week was about the Tory campaign for Mayor of London. Conservatives in attendance included Lord Cranborne, Norman Lamont, Steven Norris, Peter Ainsworth, Richard Spring and Michael Fabricant. Pandora gathered that Steven Norris's Tory candidacy is fast gaining altitude, while embattled Jeffrey Archer seems to be in a nosedive. In his speech, author Elletson said, "We have all been asked to help flog Jeffrey Archer's books at one point, which is rather embarrassing. I'm now inviting you to help out-sell him". Indeed, candidate Norris arrived in full campaign mode, with his infant son by his mistress Emma Courtney swaddled in his arms, and was heard to exclaim, "Politicians are shameless, aren't they?"

THREE THOUSAND delegates and journalists attending the EU summit meeting in Cardiff this week will receive a free, expensively produced book entitled *Corporate Wales* worth £25. The promotional objectives behind this gift are, of course, self-evident. What is less apparent is why the book was published by a Scottish company: Johnstone Media Ltd of Edinburgh.



The Euro-marriage, Italian style



TREVOR PHILIPS

The lesson of Turin, of Glasgow, of Munich is that Europe will almost certainly destroy the nation-state

I'VE SEEN the future of Europe, and it's Italian. There are only two things that bind this disparate nation together. One is obvious: they'll all be rooting for Gli Azzurri in France '98. The Italians take their football seriously - and, unlike us, they are even more excited about what their men get up to with their shorts on, than what they do when en *déshabillé*. However, this is a short-term affair; the passion will subside in weeks even if Baggio does lift the trophy in July. Then the Italians will return to their true object of desire - Europe.

This week, the euro, symbol of Italy's romance with the European Union, will take centre stage in Cardiff. It is the final act of the British Presidency of the European Union and the future of the single currency will hang over every exchange. The Italians will have no doubts, however.

I spent part of the past week in the ancient Italian town of Turin, talking to the Turinese about culture. Not that they need lessons; Turin was Italy's first capital, and seat of its royal family, which they have wisely exiled since 1947. They've got

buckets of their own heritage and culture, from medieval palaces and squares, through innumerable jazz and blues festivals, up to a major film festival featuring the work of young filmmakers. However they are enthusiasts for debate and happily borrow from others' traditions.

Perhaps that is why they are so gung-ho about the EU. A cynic

might say that this is a nation with a government that suffers from the political equivalent of brittle bone disease and a currency as stable as confetti. Why should we be surprised that the Italians would clutch at the single European currency, much as the chronic drunk might seek the security of the nearest lamppost?

Their desperate desire to be included could be seen as the economic equivalent of the Germans' desire to be a knitted into a broadly democratic Europe which would protect them against the spectre of their own political past.

But the Italian enthusiasm, felt at first hand, is more than just a prop for their insecurity. This is true love. On Italy's first TV channel, RAI Uno, the buffer between programmes carries a clock and a picture of the euro, looking forward to its arrival in 1999. People in Turin say that no Italian would be sorry to see the back of the lira; not even the Germans, who will control the euro more than anyone else, go that far.

The reason for the Italians' euro-romance is not just money. They seem remarkably unworried about

their parlous economic state; in spite of the absence of a proper national government - or maybe because of it - the Italians have managed to outgrow Britain for several periods since the 1980s.

Today, Northern Italy still feels prosperous, dominated by the fashion and banking capital Milan and the fast growing Veneto region. A third of Italy's tax revenues come from Milan alone.

The feeling may be different in the *mezzogiorno*, Italy's south, where the only difference between those cities and the North African cities that face them across the Mediterranean, is the massive subsidy generated by Northern taxpayers.

Sicily still hardly thinks of itself as part of a nation called Italy, except for the purpose of taking a share of the national cake doled out by Rome. But Europe has opened a new chapter on this story of regionalism.

For the north, Europe offers the prospect of a relationship with rich, like-minded city-regions - Paris, Hanover, and, of course, London.

For the south, the EU looks like a veritable trough of regional grant

schemes and zones of special status, constructed in the image of the Common Agricultural Policy - money for being not very successful.

For both regions, Europe could be the key that unlocks the chains which have bound them to the centre of a nation-state, represented by the increasingly resented power of Rome, Dittio London and Scotland, ditto Berlin and Bavaria, and Madrid and the Basques.

No wonder then that the nation-states which have the most recent histories - Italy and Germany - and those which are furthest along the road to disintegration - Belgium - are the most enthusiastic about European Union.

The lesson of Turin, of Glasgow, of Munich is that Europe will almost certainly destroy the nation-state. But if the men in Brussels think that the alternative is a single economic and political regime across the continent, they may be missing the signs. A quick visit to Piedmont should put them in the picture.

Europe des régions is just around the corner for all of us; and in some places, it's here already.

What will happen when New Labour is old hat?



IAN HARGREAVES

He must decide if New Labour is an advertising slogan which worked for one campaign, but which it would be better to drop now

GIVEN THAT Tony Blair arrived in Downing Street with his eyes already set on re-election, probably in 2001, it is certain that he has given considerable thought to the following question: how long should his party continue to call itself New Labour or, as Blair prefers, New Labour?

This is not a small matter, since Blair's re-naming of the party has been fundamental to his success, distancing him from Old Labour and exhausted Toryism, while proclaiming his intention to build a political base far beyond Labour's natural territorial limits. New Labour, New Britain is the central rhetorical pillar of the Blair government.

That, however, will not stop Blair dropping the label if he judges it advantageous. He must decide whether New Labour is, like New York, a permanently changed reality, or an advertising slogan which worked for one campaign, but which it would be better to drop as a 50-year-old prime minister seeks re-election emphasising continuity and experience. Labour: the party you can trust. Labour: you know it makes sense.

The advice of the party's marketing professionals will be to keep it New, particularly if Old Labour continues to assert itself in any form in the politics of London, for example, or in Scotland. In marketing, there is no shame in continually re-branding something as new, however spurious the change of formulation. Which way will Blair jump?

The prime minister has certainly crowned his love affair with newness. The word appeared 33 times in one conference speech and a recent anthology of Blair "buzzwords" recorded 111 mentions, against a mere 10 for the word socialism. New's only rival in the Labour lexicon is the closely related youth - as in New Britain, Young Country.

Two paradoxes stand out. The obvious one, that Britain is an old country with an ageing population generates persistent tension. The marketing people, however, tell the prime minister that he needn't worry about this because these days even the old want to be young. Forty years ago, young men leaving university bought trilby hats and pipes and tried to look old.

Today the over-sixties wear denim and 40 per cent of MG sports cars are bought by people over the age of 50. This paradox within the paradox explains why Blair is able to pursue his "young country" rhetoric with confidence: no-one, it seems, wants to live in an Old Country.

When it comes to New, modernised Britain, however, Blair has a different problem. On the surface, he enjoys an easy echo with the radical ambition of a John F. Kennedy or a Harold Wilson, but there is also a stark difference. Kennedy and

Wilson were modernising leaders in an age of modernity; in spite of two world wars, we were still living in an age of scientific expectation. Today's post-modern climate results from the sense that science is two-faced. Its benefits threatened by environmental side-effect and moral overreach. In post-modernity, art takes refuge in irony and cynicism.

The underlying tension arises from Blair's attempt to construct a politics of modernism in a post-modern age. A neat example is Chris Smith's new book, *Create Britain*, savaged from the high ground by George Walden but ironically exonerated by Will Self, who pronounced reading it less painful than striking himself over the head with a wooden plank.

The book itself is mainly a collection of forgettable speeches, though its introductory and final chapters set out in ambitious terms the idea of a mutually beneficial interplay between economic and cultural modernisation. In so doing, the Culture Secretary himself an expert in the Romantic poets, prays in aid of the spirit of 19th century modernisation, from William Hazlitt to John Ruskin.

He then, literally, wraps his earnest agenda in two paintings by Damien Hirst, which form the front and back covers of the book. The first is entitled "beautiful, all round, lovely day, big toys for big kids, Frank and Lorna, when we are no longer children." And on the back: "beautiful small crumpling under the boot painting." Damien's post-modern snigger is meant to say: yes, I can paint by appointment to HMG if I feel like it, but don't expect me and my mates to refrain from chucking a bucket of water over the Deputy Prime Minister if we feel like that too.

For Blair, this situation offers



Blair is stuck with post-modernity, indeed he is a creature of it

swings and roundabouts. It is the relativism of the post-modern world - where there's a place for everything but nothing is sure of its place - that makes possible the pick and mix inclusiveness of Blair's own politics. True, it also leads to the charge that New Labour lacks conviction - but in post-modernity, mankind cannot stand too much conviction.

The countervailing problem for Britain's first po-mo PM, is that it's difficult to be optimistic or even serious with Damien Hirst in the room; and without optimism and serious purpose, politics can't achieve anything. This difficulty is made flesh beneath the roof of the Millennium Dome, where we have all been able to witness the severe difficulties attached to representing in concrete form Blair's New Britain.

If Blair were a modernising prime minister in the age of modernity's innocence, he would have ordered up an Eiffel Tower or a Crystal Palace, but that doesn't work today. He's stuck with post-modernity, indeed he is the creature of it, facing

the awkward task of how to locate a consensus and inject it with some purpose.

What the Dome's designers are finding is that New Britain's cultural spirit is as elusive as its New Labour's Third Way politics. It is not surprising that these two, the Dome and the Third Way, are such favoured targets of mockery, from both the left and the right, for truly, in the richness of their paradox, they are Blairism.

But as post-modernity comes face to face with the 21st century, Blair will get the last, sardonic laugh. This is because, however difficult it is to be a modernising prime minister amid post-modernity's social and economic turbulence, it is even more difficult - indeed, arguably it is impossible, to be a successful conservative, whether from the left or right. The New Labour label, I would say, has legs.

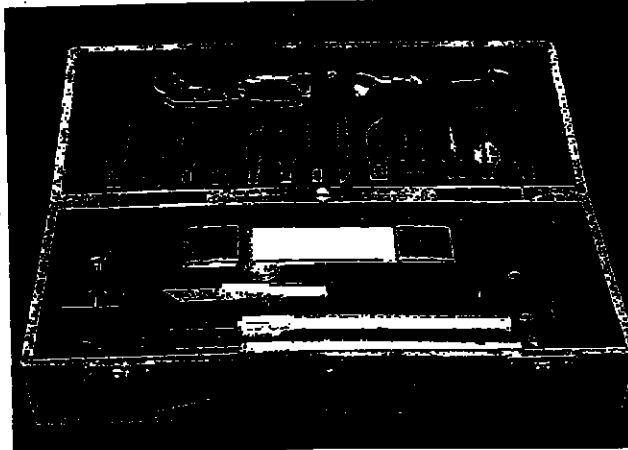
This article is based upon an edition of *Analysis*, New and Non-new, broadcast tonight, RA, 8.30 pm.

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Why legal aid must continue

ON ITS centenary in 1984, Toynbee Hall was justly acclaimed as the pioneering and imaginative venture of the Poor Man's Lawyer at Toynbee Hall - or the Legal Aid centre as it is now called - is inevitably a lesser event, but this service has responded to a pressing and unmet social need.

Despite many initiatives and despite the continuing and valuable work done by legal advice centres such as that at Toynbee Hall, there can be no doubt that the main burden of bringing legal advice and representation to those who cannot pay for it has fallen over the last half century on the legal aid scheme.

Over the past half-century the scheme has, to a very great extent, lived up to the ideals of those who conceived and established it: countless people have been enabled by it to assert and defend their rights in a way which they could not otherwise have done. But during the 1990s, the scheme has come under great and growing pressure.

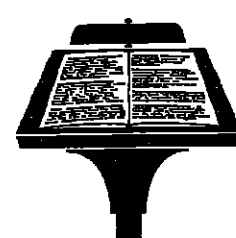
The issue that has emerged, between the Bar and the Law

Society on the one side and the government on the other is, in some ways, surprisingly narrow. No one argues that the system should continue to operate as it currently does.

It is accepted that the Lord Chancellor is bound by his government's spending limits, and there is a welcome for his pledge that overall spending on legal aid will not be reduced. There is a fairly general acceptance that legal aid has been used in the past to finance cases which did not deserve support on their merits.

Most would agree on the desirability of focusing available resources. There is, however, a radical difference of view on the best means of achieving these ends, and the crux of the difference concerns the extension of conditional fee arrangements and the corresponding withdrawal of legal aid.

The Government's argument is attractively, perhaps even deceptively, simple. It starts from the fact that upwards of 30,000 personal injury cases have already been funded by conditional fee agreements. The virtue of extending these agreements, it is argued,



PODIUM

LORD BINGHAM

Extract from the Barnett Lecture by the Lord Chief Justice of England delivered at Toynbee Hall, London

is that they require a party's professional advisers personally to back their judgement that a claim has a good chance of success; if they have too little confidence in their own judgement, then there is no reason (save in special cases) why the taxpayer should back it.

Opponents of these proposals challenge the government's

starting point. The Bar does not accept that insurance cover would become available, at reasonable costs, in the much wider and more varied range of disputes which it is proposed to exclude from legal aid cover. The Bar, therefore, disagrees, strongly, with the proposal to extend conditional fee agreements and abolish legal aid in money recovery claims.

It is important to bear in mind that the Government's proposals do not affect the availability of legal aid in criminal cases which, according to the most recent figures, absorbed £255 million out of the total net expenditure of £1,217 million.

While the scale of fees paid for such cases is open to review, it would be hard for the government to make substantial changes in principle under the European Convention on Human Rights.

In relation to the main thrust of the government's proposals for the reform of civil legal aid, the argument is a complex and closely reasoned one.

Those of us who have had no contact with insurance interests cannot be other than un-

sure whether insurance cover will be available in the much wider range of civil proceedings which are suggested as suitable for conditional fee agreements.

If such cover is not generally available at reasonable cost, then it seems unlikely that conditional fee agreements will fill the gap left by the withdrawal of legal aid; unless of course we were to modify the rule, taken for granted by lawyers in this country, but not in comparable jurisdictions elsewhere, that the successful party in litigation should recover his reasonable costs against the unsuccessful party.

The guiding principle must surely be: that the laws of our country exist for the benefit of the poor as well as the rich; that equality before the law, to be meaningful, must ensure that justice is available to all, irrespective of means.

For it is three and a half centuries since Colonel Rainsborough so memorably observed, during the Putney Debates of 1648, that "The poorest has a right to live as the greatest has".

Where will you be at 1.29pm?



JOHN WALSH

It seems I'm destined to view the World Cup, as it were, offstage. Wherever the action is, I'm always going to be in the next room, on the phone, in the hall or up the creek

I'm taking no chances this afternoon, not after what happened last week. At 1.29pm, the phone comes off the hook, the doorbell chime gets stifled with wads of lint, the pre-school child will be padlocked into its Fisher Price Correctional Facility (it's a sort of Wendy House, only with bars), the ancient gardener will be pensioned off, the parlour-maid sent to her mother's in Fenge and a huge bald bouncer posted outside the front door to deter hawkers, peddlers and aspirant burglars.

If England are going to survive the might of Tunisia today, if our plucky eleven are to stand a chance against the legendary Whirling Dribblers of North Africa, they're going to need my full attention. I mean, look what befell Scotland when my eye was off them for a minute last Monday.

It started promisingly. By 4.25, I was in my favourite chair, bottle of Irn Bru in one hand, copy of *Great International Scottish Footballing Triumphs* in the other (a thin volume, the size of a large Rizla paper), marvelling at how weirdly youthful Des Lynam is looking these days and waiting to cheer Jackson and Gallacher et al. The match started. The Brazilian team all looked impossibly tall, like basketball players who'd strayed onto the wrong pitch. They loped and ran and jumped and swerved until you'd swear all the Scotland players were standing still, except the goalkeeper.

The phone rang. I went out to the kitchen. "This is the Bee Tee call-minder," said that bossy young madam who runs the answering machine service. "You have one new message. Dial 1571 now to hear it." Not now, woman, I grated, before rushing back to my chair. "Daddy," said Max, the small son, "why don't Sainsbury's let people have Alan Shearer?"

What? "The World Cup coins. You've bought 29 packets of coins, and they're never ever Alan Shearer." It's just bad luck, mid, I said. Shut up and watch the game. But by now, I was thinking: Who was the call from? An important message from work? Exciting news from my agent? (Some hope). A family emergency?

I went to the kitchen and dialled 1571. "Dis am the Sunny Vale Nursin' Home in Muswell Hill, doctor." It's just bad luck, mid, I said. Shut up and watch the game. But by now, I was thinking: Who was the call from? An important message from work? Exciting news from my agent? (Some hope). A family emergency?



I'm bound to miss Des Lynam this year, it's my fate...

plained that the doctor doesn't live here any longer and regained the sitting room. "Brazil are one-all," said Max, calmly. "It was a header thing."

The French windows opened and the nanny's boyfriend, Will, entered. He is a film buff. "Do you mind if I turn over for a second?" he said, seizing the remote control. "There's this cricket movie written by Terence Rattigan on the other side, called *The Last Test*, and it's got Len Hutton and Denis Compton in it, trying to act..." Stunned, I let him. We watched ten minutes of Jack Warner playing a pipe-smoking has-been at the Oval before I regained the initiative. Back at the match, the big Scottish redhead with the curious features was taking a wild haymaker kick that missed the Brazil goal but sent the ball into orbit. "...although I've got three of Graeme le Saux," continued Max relentlessly. "Why do Sainsbury's like Graeme le Saux?"

The doorbell bonged. "Mr Walls?" said a motorbike delivery-man through his tinted-glass helmet. "Special delivery from the BBC. Sign here. You gotta pen? Me biro's gone a bit manky." Five minutes search of the ground floor revealed no writing materials of any description. Eventually I used an indelible ink marker from the sewing box, waved him good-bye and fled back to the sitting room. "One-all, Daddy,"

said Max. "It was a penalty thing." On the screen, a ponytailed Ginola and a suntanned Jimmy Hill were dissecting the first half.

I had to leave at 6pm for a movie preview so I learned about Brazil's dubious triumph (winning via a Scotland own-goal) while looking for a parking space in the middle of Chinatown. It seems I'm destined to view the World Cup, as it were, offstage. Wherever the action is, I'm always going to be in the next room, on the phone, in the hall or up the creek. That's why, this afternoon, only an invasion of Earth by football-hating aliens, is going to distract me from the main event. But somehow I know that, at the exact moment Sheringham scores the clincher, I'm going to be on my knees on the carpet, looking for a lost Sainsbury's coin with his face on it...

ACCORDING TO a piece in last week's *Time's Literary Supplement*, the military junta that held power in Greece in the late Sixties had one really good idea. Tiring of all the seditious literature that was being published under their noses, but realising that they could never hope to monitor the contents of everything produced by the Athens publishing houses, they issued a

stern directive: from now on, all books published in Greece would, on pain of their authors being boiled alive in extra-virgin olive oil, be required to carry titles that were a true reflection of their contents.

Thus, if you had written a savage denunciation of modern Greek dictatorship for the Parthenon Press, you couldn't call it *The Carver in the Rose* or some sneakily periphrastic title; you had to call it *Savage Denunciation of Modern Greek Dictatorship* (or, for the paperback, *Generals, Go Home*).

A cunning plan, you'll agree. And despite a few regrettable lapses from the truth (there was a terrible fuss when *180 Things to Do With Feta Cheese* was revealed, on closer inspection, to be a bomb-making handbook for Resistance fighters) it worked. What amazes me is that it's not yet been adopted as policy by our enlightened government.

Truth Publishing - it would be like Truth Advertising, which enjoyed a brief vogue in the 1950s. If book titles had to express the book's contents faithfully, a whole new era would dawn. You'd be able to judge a book, if not by its cover, by its title alone. There'd be an end to mendacity, pretension and quotations from *Kubla Khan* (which account for the titles of all James Lees-Milne's diaries; if my brilliant initiative comes off, they will instantly be retitled *Crushing Snob in*

Memory Lane, Vols 1-6).

The bestseller lists are full of misleading titles. Non-fiction comes off quite creditably - but then you can't really do much with a book about the battle of Stalingrad except call it *Stalingrad*, or a biography of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, except call it *Wild Swans* (just kidding).

I think something could be done, however, with inaccurately titled works like Whoopi Goldberg's *Book* (which should really be *Barmy Yank Actress Tells Fort Jokes*), or Angela's *Ashes* by Frank McCourt (to be retitled *Jaysus, Limerick Was Depressing In The Thirties, Daddy Was Always Drunk And All Me Brothers Died*) or Graham Hancock's *The Mers Mystery* (which would of course become *Deeply Spurious Interplanetary Bollocks*).

As for fiction, well it's crying out for the truth treatment. No longer will punters buy Sebastian Faulk's *Birdsong* on the assumption that it's a charming romance set in Berkeley Square, not when it's rechristened *Sex In The Library, Death on the Somme*, and Jeffrey Archer's *The Eleventh Commandment* would surely attract even more readers when it becomes *Spot The Former Cabinet Minister*. Care to join in? Send me your suggestions. We'll publish the best, and award a bottle of Wild Turkey bourbon for the most damningly reductive.

RIGHT OF REPLY

JESSICA LEIGH



A waitress replies to our leading article calling for the abolition of tipping

I ONLY survived university with the support of tips from three waitressing jobs. But it is obvious that the person who wrote your leading article, suggesting that tipping should be abolished, needed to make no such efforts. If you believe that "the whole business of tipping" is an embarrassment because diners ruin their meal by puzzling their spoilt heads over billing percentages, then what do you imagine the whole business of waiting must be like?

Pressurised waiters and waitresses choreograph remarkable feats of organisation by accurately and politely taking and delivering orders, many of them received at the same time. But the harassing moaners - sorry, customers - who treat us like nameless puppets are a constant reminder that we ourselves have not the time, opportunity or wealth to dine out, even if we could muster the energy.

Waiting is not a job that people actually want to do. Some of us are students or actors supplementing our income; some are parents trying to meet the everyday cost of raising children, and others are those whose education makes it difficult to find positions in other fields. But if stereotypes are to be believed, all of us lie somewhere on the scale between nothing and trailer trash; and why not, if we are to believe that our worth is reflected in our pay?

Tips are a recognition of service and satisfaction; they provide an incentive to do the job well, and often make up the bulk of a night's wage. So here's a generous tip for the Low Pay Commission: please don't suggest employers use communal tips to subsidise the minimum wage (a mind-bendingly generous £3.60 an hour) as this will only serve to slam shut the waiter's greasy window of opportunity.

MONDAY BOOK

MORE BRILLIANT THAN THE SUN: ADVENTURES IN SONIC FICTION
BY KODWO ESHUN, QUARTET, £10, 220PP

Fingers on the electronic pulse

HOW WOULD Moses have felt if he had brought the tablets of stone down from the mountain, only to find the commandments not clearly laid out in a reader-friendly one-to-ten, but concealed in the guise of a wilfully obscurantist Word-search puzzle? Much like the reader of Kodwo Eshun's alternately brilliant and infuriating defence of hi-tech black music - his *Artificial discontinuum for the Futurhythmachine* - does on first acquaintance with some of the most impenetrable prose ever published.

In his opening salvo, "Operating System For The Redesign Of Sonic Reality", Eshun sets out his stall as a one-man resistance movement against the "troglydotic homilies" which characterise conventional writing about black music. Railing against the Good Music Speaks For Itself school of non-criticism as "Great British cretinism masquerading as vectors into the Trad Sublime", he rejects what might be termed the tyranny of the essence - "the live show, the proper album, the Real Song, the Real Voice, the mature, the musical, the pure, the true" - in favour of an unapologetic celebration of the machine, of "the artificiality that all humans crave". Techno's electronic pulse is widely portrayed as an aberration in the history of black

music - a regrettable break with affirmative tradition, which forsakes soul's eternal verities for the hollow thrill of the modernist metronome. Yet Eshun sees it as a new beginning: the dawn of the "Post-Soul Era". The fact that techno is "the first explicit case where white music is the origin", while black American musicians are "the adulterators and the bastardisers" then becomes an opportunity, rather than a shameful secret. It wasn't just the synthetic musical texture of European electro-pop that appealed to black techno-pioneers in the post-industrial wilderness of early-1980s Detroit. The disembodied weirdness of its voices was a perfect vehicle for

their alienation from the society in which they found themselves. And the founding principle of Eshun's post-soul era - that "the human is a pointless and treacherous category" - sounds a bit scary, but doesn't have to be.

Eshun makes great capital out of this idea, overturning tired and restrictive notions of authenticity with an infectious sense of liberation. If the music of Kraftwerk is "the Delta blues of techno", he explains, then "A Flock Of Seagulls are like Blind Lemon Jefferson, Dépeche Mode are

like Leadbelly". Unfortunately, this sense of fun rather dissipates as he connects up the spinal column of his central conceit to an endoskeleton of "Afro-diasporic futurism", that is, the anti-humanist tradition of the black avant-garde, which stretches from the science-fiction writings of Samuel R Delany and Amos Tutuola to the science-fiction music of Lee Perry or Sun Ra.

In his determination to find a language worthy of his thoughts' futuristic drift, Eshun weighs them down with the sort of portentous

technical jargon beloved of Terry Pratchett fans and Star Trek obsessives. We encounter Sampladelia, Skratshadelia, Cryptogrammatrons, Psychopathogenetics, Anachronic Cybernetics, Insectile Texturhythms... "I can't squeeze any more out of her, Captain, she's breaking up!" Is this a manifesto disguised as a textbook, or a textbook disguised as a manifesto?

If the music he describes can, as Eshun claims, "build a new psychomotor from the old you", there's no reason why his writing shouldn't do that as well.

Sometimes, as in his exquisite description of the music of A Guy Called Gerald

("The derealised wraith rhythm ride throughout the digital foliage") or a visionary explanation of the mechanics of sampling, *More Brilliant Than The Sun* achieves actual warp speed. All too often, though, the alarm bells sounded by an author's biography informing us that Eshun is "not a cultural critic or a cultural commentator so much as a concept engineer, an imaginer at the millennium's end" reverberate for longer than the text itself. The fragrant rosebush of the author's aesthetic vision is lost in a choking hindwood of self-indulgent verbiage.

The closing chapter, an interview transcript in which Eshun addresses what he is trying to do in more informal language, is a precious lapse into accessibility. But why is it that - armed with a central thesis that is brilliant in its simplicity, that turns conventional ways of thinking about black music on its head and joins the dots between different fields of creative endeavour with devastating elegance and wit - Eshun should so often eschew clarity's snub-nosed revolver in favour of obfuscation's rusty halberd? It can only be that nightmare of all true intellectuals: the fear of being understood.

BEN THOMPSON

MONDAY POEM

THE INFINITE
BY GIACOMO LEOPARDI, TRANSLATED BY JG NICHOLS

I always did value this lonely hill,
And this hedgerow also, where so wide a stretch
Of the extreme horizon's out of sight.
But sitting here and gazing, I find that endless
Spaces beyond that hedge, and more-than-human
Silences, and the deepest peace and quiet
Are fashioned in my thought; so much that almost
My heart fills up with fear. And as I hear

The wind rustle among the leaves, I set
That infinite silence up against this voice,
Comparing them; and I recall the eternal,
And the dead seasons, and the present one
Alive, and all the sound of it. And so
In this immensity my thought is drowned:
And I enjoy my sinking in this sea.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from JG Nichols' new translation of "The Canti" by Giacomo Leopardi (1798 - 1837, which is published this week by Carcanet Press (£9.95))

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The Samaritans

Reg Smythe

"ANDY CAPP was born on the A1 road at 60mph," wrote "Smythe", a fairly well-known cartoonist introducing his first paperback collection of "The World's Funniest Cartoon Character", as the cover claimed. "There was I," Smythe continued, "lying in bed on the first morning of a holiday up north, when comes this telegram telling me to return to London sharpish, and to bring a new cartoon character with me."

It had been the Editor of the *Daily Mirror* calling. The popular tabloid was about to launch its first separate Northern edition, and they wanted a regular daily cartoon for the joke page. Note, a cartoon, not a strip cartoon. Strips were relegated to a full-page collection of their own, and to delete a strip in favour of a Northern-only strip would have been too much to contemplate. It was not long, however, before that progression was made, so popular had the truculent little layabout become.

On 14 April 1958, less than a year after his debut on 5 August 1957, Andy Capp was kicked out of the Boilermaker's Arms and landed in the national edition of the *Mirror*. His extraordinary rise in popularity soon won him his own comic strip, and from 6 May 1960 he was working a full seven-day week; he appeared in the *Sunday Pictorial* too, as the *Mirror*'s Sunday edition was then called.

Smythe was the pen-name of Reginald Smith, whose gags were better than his drawings. His style was pretty crude in those earlier years, but once he fell into the formula of strip cartooning, his characters grew more dumpy, even cuddly, to suit the low panelling, and his backgrounds simpler, neater



Capp by Smythe

and repetitive as suited the contemporary reader.

Smith was born in 1917 in Hartlepool, Yorkshire, where his father was a builder of boats. As with most working-class lads, young Reg left school at 14. He got a job as a butcher's errand boy, shortly thereafter enlisting in the Army as a regular soldier. Handily placed for the Second World War, he became a machine-gunner, and after demobilisation joined the Post Office. It was here that he began to freelance the odd cartoon joke to the many magazines of the time, finding regular spots in *Reveille*, the former *Services* newspaper now published by the *Mirror* Group, and thence the *Mirror* itself.

The first Andy Capp cartoons were little more than an extension of these daily gags, given a semblance of continuity of characters by always featuring Andy, his missus Florrie, and an increasing circle of regulars - his drinking mate Chalkie, the rent man Mr Ritson, Jack the publican, and so on. One character who never appeared in the strip, and indeed was never referred to, was Buster. The boy was subtitled "The Son of Andy Capp" and to prove it wore a big floppy cloth cap, just like his dad. Buster was created by the editorial staff of the *Mirror* Group after they had taken over the comic publisher the Amalgamated Press, and he continued to appear in his own comic, called *Buster*, almost 40 years after his birth (28 May 1960) - but without his once famous subtitle.

Capp's popularity grew rapidly, something quite extraordinary considering his character, although in historic context the world's first comic strip hero, Ally Sloper (born 1867) shared the same characteristics and the same grog-blossom of a nose. Sloper sloped up the alley when the rent man was nigh, loved his hard drink, had an eye for the young girls despite a blowsy old wife, and never did a day's work in his life. Just like Andy Capp. But Sloper never half-slaughtered his missus as Capp did; see the first cartoon reprinted in the first *Andy Capp* Book published rather rapidly in 1958. Florrie sits battered on the floor, Andy leans nonchalantly against the wall. "Look at it this way, honey," he says, "I'm a man of few pleasures and one of them 'appens to be knockin' yer about!"

Were there no feminists in the Fifties, or was it the Capp cartoons



There was I... Smythe's Andy Capp cartoons were translated all over the world

that begat them? Some research needed here, and global research too, for how was it that a Northern slob touched a chord not only with the *Mirror*'s Southern readers and their Scottish counterparts, but soon touched the world? Russia reprinted Capp in *Izvestia*, the Swedes put him in their monthly comic book *Tuffa Viktor* (their version of his name), and the Americans not only syndicated his daily strip all over the country, they demanded Smythe draw them an exclusive page for their colour supplements. Capp was soon appearing in 34 countries, in 13 different languages. If that didn't surprise the insular Capp, it certainly surprised Smythe, who became Britain's wealthiest strip cartoonist.

The *Mirror*'s regular reprint books helped. They appeared in many varying formats. The second was shaped like a bottle, the "cork" protruding at the top actually containing a "flicker film" of Andy in action. First they were annual, then

they came out twice a year, and later a reprint series of the reprints began a run. In 1983 came Capp Book No 50, a "Gold" special, and in that issue readers were offered originals of the strips, ready framed for hanging, at £85 each.

Andy Capp hit television in 1988, and the *Mirror* celebrated with a special paperback called *You're a Star, Andy Capp!* Unusually this edition included full colour pages adapted from the American strips Smythe had been syndicating. James Bolam, fresh from *The Likely Lads* and more seriously from *When the Boat Comes In*, played Andy, with Paula Tilbrook as Florrie the hard-done-by Mrs Capp, and Keith Smith as his chum Chalkie. Keith Waterhouse wrote the series, but its success may be judged by its lack of repeats, even by the cheap-and-cheerful cable channels. Although Waterhouse tried particularly to preserve the cartoon quality of the strip, it didn't work, perhaps because Bolam lacked

the earthy comedic style required. If only the *Mirror* had invested in an adult-audience animated series, perhaps produced by that great convention-cracker Bob Godfrey, we might have been the first country to conquer television cartoons for grown-ups. They made a stab at computers, via a subsidiary, *Mirrorsoft*, in 1988, but didn't quite hit home.

What of Andy Capp's future? He left, reportedly, a year's supply of cartoons. After that, will a new artist take over, or will the *Mirror* resort to reprints? There's a big enough backlog, heaven knows. But perhaps the shape of things to come lies in the female teenager Mandy Capp, recently introduced to soothe the savage feminists. Or will she disappear too, like Buster's subtitle?

Denis Gifford

Reginald Smith (Reg Smythe), cartoonist: born Hartlepool, Yorkshire 1917; married; died Hartlepool 13 June 1998.

Professor D. R. Wilkie

IN 1947 D. R. Wilkie published a careful description of the mechanical performance of the human biceps muscle. Like much of the experimental work he published, this paper is still referred to today. The reason is simply that he had the knack of getting the right answers. His method of doing so was punctilious attention to detail of apparatus, of experiments, and of calculation. Whenever he encountered a discrepancy he would return to first principles as required until he had subdued the rebellious facts or artefacts. These methods gained him international renown, especially in the field of the supply of energy for muscular contraction.

Doug Wilkie was born into the family of a south London pharmacist, was educated at Bec School and Brighton Technical College and entered University College London (UCL) in 1940 to study Medicine on the shortened wartime course. He soon showed his outstanding ability as a student and scholar and won the Rockefeller Studentship which took him to Yale University for the last year of his medical education.

He returned to UCL for his medical and surgical house jobs and passed his MRCP in the same year, an exceptional achievement. Perhaps it was this brilliance which brought him to the attention of the Physiology Department of UCL, which offered him an assistant lectureship in 1945, when he was 23, and within a few years had promoted him to a Readership with responsibility for organising the teaching of Physiology to the medical class.

This department, which was to remain his academic home throughout his life, has a proud history. Principal among the luminaries at that time was the Nobel Laureate A.V. Hill, then in his sixties, but returning with enthusiasm to research interrupted by the war. The young Wilkie fell under his spell, taking up research on some of Hill's lifelong interests: the mechanics of muscular contraction, its relation to human performance and the application of thermodynamics to muscle contraction.

He also adopted something of Hill's style of research, characterised by application of basic principles from physics, mathematics and chemistry to the understanding of the behaviour of the object of study, whether man or muscle, together with ingenuity in the invention of methods. The normal practice was that the scientists would design and make their own equipment and hence understand in detail its functioning and skilfully cure its malfunctioning. Such work was an absorbing joy to Wilkie, a pleasure which lasted his whole life.

A.V. Hill, like Doug Wilkie himself, delighted in encouraging young scientists. He had within his influence then three brilliant young men, all destined for distinction in physiology: Eric Denton, Murdoch Ritchie and Doug Wilkie. It was probably "AV" who first referred to this dashing trio as the Three Musketeers.

Wilkie's research work expanded from muscle mechanics in several directions including the study of the possibilities of man as an aero-engine. In this field he published an important critical review of the power output of humans and was active in the committee which established the Kremer prizes for benchmarking man-powered flights.

His interest turned also to the question of the supply of energy for muscle contraction, a field in which he became an international star at a time of considerable progress. His 1960 review put this subject back on the thermodynamic rails from which, strangely, it had become derailed in the hurry of new discoveries in the 1930s. This review exemplifies perfectly both Wilkie's insight into scientific issues and his skills as a communicator and teacher. These inspired many a younger person to follow in these

particular traditions of science and of course found expression too in his many contributions to the education of medical students at UCL.

Wilkie faced a difficult decision in 1969 when Andrew Huxley, then head of Physiology, stepped aside to take a Royal Society Chair. As Wilkie was by then holder of a personal Chair at UCL and remained a major player in medical education it was natural that he should be asked to lead the department. He filled that role ably for 10 years, but probably at times regretted his choice. He certainly missed the scientific bench work for which he had so much less time.

Fortunately during this period his interest in muscle energy supply led to a new enthusiasm, the application of Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, first to the study of isolated muscles, in collaboration with George Radda and David Gadian in Oxford, then, with the paediatrician Os Reynolds, to the study of the brains of newborn babies.

As do we all, Wilkie had the "faults of his virtues" (a favourite phrase of his). His determination that his experiments should be unclouded by artefact (bugs) may have led to a few precious facts, not yet recognised as such, being rejected with the artefacts. His perfectionism certainly served him poorly in his administrative role, where first principles are in short supply. Perhaps because of this Wilkie would worry more than most about his decisions and this could have been a cause of



unhappiness, even of ill-health.

The self-confidence in science that came from his own analyses of subjects from the basics was certainly a virtue because of the clarity of thought and writing that followed, but perhaps it was also a fault in scientific debate, in which Wilkie could be uncompromising. He sometimes lacked the ability to see merit in points of view very different to his own, and this may have limited the depth of his own understanding. It seems that friendships and the fellowship of other scientists, which Wilkie so valued, may have been shortened by this lack of perspective.

Doug Wilkie had a gregarious nature and was a charming and witty companion ready to discuss poetry, literature, sailing, photography, science, politics, medicine or whatever. In 1949 he married June Hill, who was also a medical student at UCL and a scientist. They divorced in 1982 but became close again; he survived her by little over a year. Their son Andrew is a medical scientist too.

Roger Woledge

Douglas Robert Wilkie, physiologist: born London 2 October 1922; Locke Research Fellow, University College London 1951-54; Reader in Experimental Physiology 1954-65; Professor of Experimental Physiology 1965-69; Jodrell Professor and Head of Physiology Department 1969-79 (Emeritus); FRS 1971; Jodrell Research Professor of Physiology, London University 1979-88 (Emeritus); married 1949 June Hill (died 1996; one son; marriage dissolved 1982); died London 21 May 1998.

Eric Tabarly

FRENCH OCEAN sailing lost its father figure with the death of Eric Tabarly. The 66-year-old French navy captain was an icon to all those who followed him, often were taught by him, and a national hero not just in the grand manner of the lonely man of the sea, but one who came to fame by beating the Anglo-Saxons at their own game.

That he should be lost at sea, sailing the boat he inherited from his father, the original *Pen Duick*, only added to the sense of tragedy felt about a man whose passion for what he did had touched even those who would never set foot on a sailing yacht. His honesty of purpose and commitment coincided with a French love affair with sailing and sailors at a time when it was becoming much more accessible to the man in the street, not just the very rich.

Although from the Loire, Tabarly spent family holidays in Brittany, went to the Ecole Navale in Brest,

and sailed out of La Trinité. He may not have been born there, but he was an archetypal Breton. That included a rather taciturn exterior, one that was quickly broken down when among friends, especially if they were talking about boats. He could also be heard in full voice when it came to singing sea shanties. Although not an engineer or naval architect, Tabarly was full of ideas about new designs and construction methods, resulting in some notable creations, including all the subsequent *Pen Duicks*.

The platform was created in 1964 when he won, in *Pen Duick II*, the Singlehanded Transatlantic Race from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island. President de Gaulle was so impressed he awarded Tabarly the Légion d'Honneur. But, at a later date, when de Gaulle invited him to the Elysée for dinner, Tabarly told him on the telephone he could not come as that coincided with low tide in Brittany, when he wanted to clean

the exposed hull of his boat. His priorities were clear. The same boat took him to Coves the following year in the French Admiral's Cup team and two years later he won the Fastnet Race, again sailing in the Admiral's Cup, in *Pen Duick III*. This was a schooner for which Tabarly had worked out he could increase sail area and power without any handicap penalty. It took the rule makers to snuff out that advantage.

His next boat, *Pen Duick IV*, was a trimaran, *Pen Duick V* took him to single-handed victory in the San Francisco to Yokohama Transpac in 1969, and then came *PDVI*. The 74-foot aluminium ketch was the vehicle for three of Tabarly's five Whitbread Race appearances and featured a keel made from very heavy spent uranium. The rule makers had to act again.

By the end of the 1970s it was the French, not the British, who were organising high-profile races across the Atlantic and Tabarly was at the

forefront not just in terms of boats, but commercially. His trimaran with foils, *Paul Ricard*, gave him second place, by only a few minutes in a race from Lorient to Bermuda and back. It also established his appeal to big sponsors.

Last year he won, with Yves Parlier, the Jacques Vabre two-handed transatlantic. Parlier said he learned more new things in those two weeks from the obsessively tidy Tabarly than he had learned in years.

Eric Tabarly, son of a businessman from near Nantes, knew how to apply himself to getting the things he wanted. Most of all he wanted the 49t 6in *Pen Duick* and was beaten for advising a prospective buyer that it was a poor prospect. By fighting in the Indo-China war, and also flying a bomber, he made enough money in two years to buy it himself and then spent a lot more and his friends' time rebuilding it in glassfibre, when that material was in its infancy.



He was sailing that beloved boat when he was lost off the coast of Wales, just days after its 100th birthday celebrations in Benodet and the month before his own 67th birthday.

Stuart Alexander

Eric Tabarly, yachtsman: born Nantes, France 24 July 1931; married (one daughter); died off Wales 12 June 1998.

Professor Ashin Das Gupta

ASHIN DAS GUPTA was a leading historian of modern India with a formidable reputation as a scholar of international standing. His very first book, *Malabar in Asian Trade 1740-1800* (1967), based largely on the hitherto unexplored records of the Dutch East India Company, was recognised as a major contribution in the tradition of Jakob van Leur, W.H. Moreland and the pioneers of Asian economic history.

In the 1950s, a number of scholars had worked on the Dutch records for the history of Asia's trade with Europe. But Das Gupta moved away from the format of trade history and reconstructed from the scattered and elusive data a clear picture of the traders and the traders' socio-economic milieu. He presented it in a compelling narrative which bestowed a human face on his framework of analysis.

Das Gupta is counted among the handful of modern historians who



never lost faith in the relevance of narrative and thus helped revive the tradition of narrative history. His analysis was sharp, but he remained sceptical about the use of tools borrowed from the social sciences, especially the use of statistical method

where the data were far from dependable.

In his first work, as in his work of mature scholarship, his 1979 monograph *Indian Merchants and the Decline of Surat c.1700-1750* and his numerous articles on trade and traders, Das Gupta proved his point: he showed how significant historical insights could be accessible without sacrificing literary elegance or borrowing from other disciplines - which can mislead when used without due care.

He explored from different angles the history of trade and traders in the 18th century, focusing on particular ports and regions: Malabar and Surat were followed by Masulipatam and Hugli. But his plans were derailed by the onset of a cruel illness.

The relevance of politics to the ups and downs of a country's economic life, especially trade, and a detailed awareness of the global

context of international commerce inform his writings. Following Fernand Braudel's famous 1949 work on the Mediterranean as an economic region, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, a historical movement focused on the Indian Ocean began in the 1970s, bringing together scholars from various countries.

Das Gupta played a leading role in this enterprise. A volume he edited with M.N. Pearson of Sydney, *India and the Indian Ocean 1500-1800* (1987), is recognised as an important contribution to this new field of study. So are his dozen or more articles published in a range of edited volumes, products of international collaboration.

There was an outburst of intellectual and literary activity in 19th-century Bengal which the region's intelligentsia fondly described as the Bengal Renaissance. That description has been voted out of court as

too flamboyant for a very limited class phenomenon. Perhaps rightly so. But, whatever the correct nomenclature for that splendid efflorescence of creativity, it produced a particular type of individuals and intellectual ambience. Serious scholarship combined with wide interests, social concern and sociability and a strain of unobtrusive scepticism which could acquire heroic dimensions, were among the hallmarks of Bengal's intellectual culture in the 19th century. Ashin Das Gupta was among the last representatives of that tradition.

Educated at Presidency College, Calcutta and Fitzwilliam Hall, Cambridge, sometime Fellow of St Antony's, Oxford, and Visiting Professor at several American and Australian universities, Das Gupta was completely at ease in the world of international scholarship. Yet he remained actively involved in the cultural life of his region to the end.

He published regularly in Bengali on matters literary and historical and above all, on the questions of the day.

He was old-fashioned enough to retain a faith in the relevance of Indian nationalism and the viability of secular democratic values. In the days of the Marxist (Naxalite) movement, he used his acid wit to play terrible games with his own safety. His name was high on the hit list of the revolutionaries. As forces of communal hatred moved to the centre stage of Indian politics, he wrote profusely on its destructive implications. A series of articles on Gandhi in Bengali make perhaps the most intelligent contribution to an understanding of that baffling personality.

Like his 19th-century forebears, Das Gupta felt a commitment to public duty. In 1984 he left his Chair in Indian History at Viswa Bharati to take up the post of Director, National Library of India (1984-90), and then Vice-Chancellor, Viswa Bharati

(1990-92). The severe demands of these offices damaged his health.

There was a certain grandeur in the way he and his remarkable wife, Uma, a scholar in her own right, faced up to the great tragedy of their lives - a disabling and painful illness which destroyed him slowly. He continued to write as long as he could and then to dictate his polished and precisely worded lectures and articles. His wit and sense of fun never deserted him and his house remained open to friends and visitors as always. In his life and his courageous journey to death, he became a cult figure in Bengal.

Tapan Raychaudhuri

Ashin Das Gupta, historian: born Calcutta 22 August 1931; Director, National Library of India 1984-90; Vice-Chancellor, Viswa Bharati University 1990-92; married Uma Roy (one son); died Calcutta 4 June 1998.

Geoffrey Kendal

TILL THE early Seventies, few Indians knew that the real name of the Shakespeare Wallah - or the man who produced, directed and acted in Shakespeare's plays - was Geoffrey Kendal. Most simply knew this handsome and talented British actor-manager, renowned for playing Shakespearean characters across India, to packed houses, simply by his Indian sobriquet.

For two generations of schoolchildren - now in their fifties - Kendal's Shakespeareana Company provided them their first introduction to the Bard. Accompanied by his wife Laura and, in later years, by his daughters Jennifer and Felicity, Kendal's troupe toured India performing mostly Shakespearean plays but also those of Sheridan, Shaw and Wilde from shabby village halls to opulent maharaja's palaces, often joined by a variety of young local actors who later earned international cinematic acclaim.

Kendal was publicly anointed Shakespeare Wallah after the 1965 Ivory Merchant film of the same name. In the film - which also featured his wife, daughter and son-in-law, the Indian film actor Shashi Kapoor - three members of an English theatrical family "play" themselves in a story based loosely on the real-life experiences of an English troupe which toured India after the British Raj ended in 1947.

Kendal played the actor-manager Buckingham, down on his luck and trying to cadge bookings from unsympathetic school bursars for his stage productions, locked in a losing battle with raucous, but sticky made, Bollywood movies produced in India's film capital city of Bombay. "It was in some ways close to our experience," said Kendal.

And even though Kendal's world as a wandering actor - he had begun his theatrical career reading the boards of repertory companies across England - was shrinking fast, he never gave up. He performed at boarding schools, colleges, small town squares - wherever anyone was willing to defray basic costs, from the turbulent North West Frontier Province (now in Pakistan), the home of the war-loving Pathans, in the north to the sylvan environs of Ooty in the south. In its meanderings his troupe slept on crowded station platforms, suffering privations even the most dedicated of actors would have happily foregone.

When money was tight - which was often - Kendal's retinue travelled third class by rail, which in India has always been nothing short of a nightmare.

On one occasion two of his actors had to cling to the side of the train as it pulled out of the station, fastening themselves

to their cage by their belts. There were 70 people crammed into a space meant for 12 and when one of Kendal's party got to the lavatory, having climbed over packed, inert bodies in searing hot temperatures he found four people inside the cubicle and a baby comfortably installed in the washbasin.

But things were not always so grim for the Shakespeareana Company of which Countess Mountbatten of Burma and the fabulously wealthy Maharaja of Jaipur were once patrons. In the late 1940s Kendal's "princely tour" took in the royal states of Hyderabad and Travancore in the south to Patiala and Gwalior in the north, where they were feted by the wealthy and glamorous and witnessed at first hand the opulence and majesty of some of India's richest potentates.

But above all, Kendal loved India. He had felt a strong affinity the moment he landed at Bombay in the mid-1940s. It

The Indian audiences are the best in the world, said Kendal. 'Nothing escapes their attention'

was the place where he found he really belonged. Describing his chance arrival in the country where he spent his most productive and active years, Kendal said he experienced a surge of excitement - a heightened sensation of life. The crowds, he wrote, had an energy he had never seen in Britain, restlessly flowing to and fro, as if the smallest incident was of vast interest. He was to find this same quality in an Indian audience. "They are the best in the world," he declared. "Nothing escapes their attention."

Born Geoffrey Bragg in 1909 in the Lake District town of Kendal - which name he adopted as his surname in the 1930s - into a middle-class family, he developed a liking for the theatre, especially Shakespeare, early in life. His first introduction to India was cursory, through his Uncle Jack who served there in the Royal Horse Artillery and Aunt Eunice, who fell in love with an engine-driver in the garrison town of Ambala in the north.

He attended theatre classes at Lancaster and joined various repertoires



Kendal in Shakespeare Wallah, 1965

Ronald Grant Archive

which performed in small English towns. During one of these tours in Merseyside he met Laura Liddell, also an actress, and married her at Gretna Green in 1933.

After a brief career in the Merchant Navy Kendal enrolled in the Entertainment National Service Association that supplied entertainment to troops serving overseas and came to India in 1944. Ensa also took him to the Far East including Hong Kong, Singapore, the backwaters of Malaya and Borneo where he and his troupe performed to tumultuous audiences.

But he always returned to his beloved India, where his older daughter Jennifer married the dashing Shashi Kapoor, also descended from an established dynasty of Indian stage actors. Kapoor later became leading man in Bollywood films in the Sixties and Seventies while Jennifer (who died in 1984) produced and played the lead role in 36 *Chauranghi Lane* (1981), a woe-filled sad and moving tale about the pathetic plight of India's depressed Anglo-Indian community. Jennifer and Felicity had stopped per-

forming in the troupe in the 1960s, but it was another decade before Kendal and his wife returned to England. Kendal was hit hard by Jennifer's death and was convinced he would never return to India again. But he did several times and in 1993 even directed his favourite play, *Gostight*, the Victorian psychological thriller by Patrick Hamilton, at the fabulous Prithvi theatre in Bombay built in memory of Shashi Kapoor's father.

All those who knew Kendal describe him as a volatile, obnoxious, "wonderfully belligerent and mad man" who, like a Shakespearean character "drank life to the lees". He enjoyed the company of youngsters, saw adventure in everything, including hard times, and had the ability to make the most mundane event sound like a dramatic happening.

Kuldip Singh

Geoffrey Bragg (Geoffrey Kendal), actor-manager, born Kendal, Westmorland 7 September 1909; married 1933 Laura Liddell (died 1992; one daughter, and one daughter deceased); died 14 May 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

CHARLES KAISER

A triumph of science over religion

EXACTLY 50 years ago Alfred Charles Kinsey published an 804-page tome which smashed America with the force of a meteor. *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* enraged religious leaders, university presidents and leading psychiatrists. But it also did more to promote sexual liberation in general and gay liberation in particular than any previous book.

The statistic which found its way into all of the headlines was Kinsey's assertion that 10 per cent of all American adult males were "more or less exclusively homosexual", including 4 per cent who were "exclusively homosexual throughout their lives, after the onset of adolescence".

The accuracy of those numbers has been challenged repeatedly since they were published, and the debate heated up again last year, when James H. Jones published a massive new biography of Kinsey. Jones broke the researcher's most carefully guarded secret - the fact that he was having sex with men throughout his marriage - and suggested (not very convincingly) that this behaviour might have affected Kinsey's scientific methods.

What made Kinsey's work revolutionary was his assertion that scientists had to divorce their judgements about sexuality from the "ancient religious codes" which were "the prime source of the attitudes, the ideas, the ideals, and the rationalisations by which most individuals pattern their sexual lives".

By adopting a disinterested tone and divorcing all of his judgments from the traditional Judeo-Christian influences, Kinsey eventually made it possible for millions of people to think about sex very differently. His book was another crucial step in the evolution which had begun a century earlier with Darwin: the gradual triumph of science over religion which ultimately made gay liberation possible.

In 1948, the legions of psychiatrists who had made handsome livings by trying to convert homosexuals into heterosexuals were oblivious to Kinsey's achievement. They were apologetic over Kinsey's findings - even though their progenitor, Sigmund Freud, had written in 1937 that while "homosexuality is assuredly no advantage", it was also "nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation [and] it cannot be classified as an illness".



Kinsey: revolutionary work

Religious leaders and academics were even harsher: Henry Van Dusen, who headed Manhattan's Union Theological Seminary, called the report's statistics evidence of a "degradation in American morality approximating the worst decadence of the Roman era", while the President of Princeton University compared the report to "the work of small boys writing dirty words on fences".

But Kinsey's conclusions would have a much more lasting effect than the words of his critics. He had begun a process that would eventually produce a dramatic change in the way the American establishment thought about homosexuality.

Kinsey wrote that, considering the number of homosexuals he had uncovered, it would be "difficult to maintain the view that psychosexual reactions between individuals of the same sex are rare and therefore abnormal or unnatural, or even that they constitute within themselves evidence of neuroses or even psychoses". That was the conclusion which enraged psychiatrists most of all. But exactly 25 years later, it became the official position of the American Psychiatric Association, when it removed homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders in 1973. For gay Americans, that action was just as revolutionary as the Declaration of Independence had been for the colonies.

Charles Kaiser is the author of *The Gay Metropolis: 1940-1996* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20)

GAZETTE

CASE SUMMARIES

15 JUNE 1998

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

WELLS: On 10 June, at home in Hethersett, Norfolk, Peter Frank Wells MBE, devoted husband of Liz (died 1996) and beloved father and grandfather. Funeral service and cremation at the City of Norwich (Earlham) Crematorium on Friday 19 June at 2.30pm. Donations to Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC) may be sent in lieu of flowers.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Robert Atwell, formerly at Burford Priory; to be Vicar, Primrose Hill St Mary the Virgin with Avenue Road St Paul (London).
The Rev Alan Bradbury, Assistant Curate, Galscott (Trent); to be Assistant Curate, St Ives, and Ruislip (same diocese).
The Rev Geoffrey Bennett, Rector, St Ruan with St Grade and Landwood (Trent); to be Vicar, Buxton (same diocese).
Canon Barrie Gange, Director of Parish Development (Chester); to be Parish Development Adviser (Dorset).
The Rev Fergus Pearson, formerly Assistant Curate, Benlifford St John with special responsibility for Parishes Good Shepherd (Salisbury).
Canon John Record, Rector, Devizes St John and St Mary, (Salisbury); to be also Rural Dean of Devizes (same diocese).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir David Alliance, chairman, Coats Viyella, 66; Mr Richard Baker, broadcaster, 73; Mr Simon Callow, actor, 49; Miss Mary Ellis, singer and actress, 98; Mr Ken Fletcher, tennis player, 58; Sir John Fretwell, former ambassador to France, 68; Air Chief Marshal Sir Joseph Gilbert, 67; Mr John Humphries, former senior partner, Travers Smith, Braithwaite, 73; Admiral Sir Charles Madden, former Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, 92; Mr John Morrison, former President, Wolfson College, Cambridge, 85; Lord Murray QC, a former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 76; Mr David Newsome, former Master of Wellington College, 69; Miss Nicola Pagett, actress, 53; Professor Paul Patterson, composer, 51; The Right Rev John Perry, Bishop of Chelmsford, 63; Mr John Redwood MP, 47; Miss Margaret Rudland, Headmistress, Godolphin and Latymer School, 53; Mr Sukdev Sharma, Chief Executive, Commission for Racial Equality, 52; The Rev Martin Smyth MP, 67; Sir Ninian Stephen, former Governor-General of Australia, 75; Mr Ezer Weizman, President of Israel, 74; Lord Whitty, a Lord in Waiting, 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Edward, the Black Prince, 1320; George Heriot, jeweller and goldsmith, 1563; Nicolas Poussin, painter, 1594; Thomas Randolph,

poet and playwright, 1605; Charles de Lafosse, historical painter, 1636; Cesare Bonesana, Marchese di Beccaria, jurist and economist, 1738; Georg Joseph Vogler, composer, 1749; Edward Grieg, composer, 1843; Paul Gilson, composer, 1865; Charles Wood, musician and scholar, 1866; Harry Langdon, silent film comedian, 1884; James Norval Harold Robertson-Justice, actor, 1905. Deaths: Robert I, King of the Franks, killed in battle 923; Wat Tyler, rebel, beheaded at Smithfield 1381; Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, 1467; Guillaume Courtois (Guglielmo Cortese), painter, 1679; Thomas Campbell, poet, 1844; James Knox Polk, 11th US President, 1849; Ary Scheffer, painter, 1858; Frederick III, Emperor of Germany, 1888; Mihail Eminescu, poet, 1889; Ferenc Erkel, composer, 1893; William Le Baron Jenney, architect, 1907; Maurice Henry Hewlett, novelist and poet, 1923; Charles Francis Bush, inventor of the arc lamp, 1929; Evelyn Underhill, poet and writer, 1941; Wendell Meredith Stanley, biochemist, 1971; Ella Fitzgerald, singer, 1996. On this day: the Magna Carta was sealed by King John at Runnymede, near Windsor, 1215; the Turks were victorious over the Serbs at Kosovo, Serbia, 1389; during the rebellion against Mary of Scotland, her forces were defeated at the Battle of Carberry Hill, 1567; Harrow School was founded, 1571; Commodore Anson arrived

at Spithead in his ship *Centurion* after circumnavigating the world, 1744; using a kite during a thunderstorm, Benjamin Franklin experimented with electricity, 1752; the first stone of the new London Bridge was laid by the Duke of York, 1825; Arkansas became the 35th of the United States, 1836; in the United States, Charles Goodyear patented a vulcanised rubber process, 1844; the boundary between the State of Oregon and Canada was declared to be the 49th Parallel, 1846; Thomas Buller, with two Maori guides and their wives, completed the New Zealand expedition known as "The Great Journey", 1848; the Stamp Duty on newspapers in Britain was abolished, 1855; a massacre of Christians took place at Jeddah, 1858; the Englishman Carlisle D. Graham went over Niagara Falls (for the second time) in a seven-foot barrel, and survived, 1887; Prince Peter Kara-georgevich was elected king by the Serbian Assembly, 1903; the steamer *General Slocum* caught fire in the East River of New York City, resulting in over 1,000 dead, 1904; the Battle of Ginchy was fought, 1915; the Boy Scouts of America were incorporated, 1916; the first non-stop transatlantic flight was completed by Alcock and Brown, 1919; Dame Nellie Melba made a public broadcast from the Marconi works at Chelmsford, Essex, 1920; the French submarine *Phenix* sank off Indochina, with the loss of 63 lives,

LECTURES

National Gallery: Tamar Garb, "Bodies of Modernity", 1pm.
Wallace Collection, London W1: Sarah Bowles, "Maolica in the Wallace Collection", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Michael Guy Anthony, Mr Michael Leonard Seddon Cripps, Mr John Frederick Holt, Mr William Michael Rose, Mr Peter John Thompson, Mr Richard John McGregor-Johnson, and Mr Charles Stuart Welchman, to be circuit judges, on the South Eastern Circuit.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Disciplinary proceedings

Balamoody v United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting: QBD (Div 1) (Pill LJ, Maurice Kay J) 10 June 1998.

THE NURSES, Midwives and Health Visitors (Professional Conduct) Rules 1993 were couched in such a form as to embrace all criminal convictions, whether committed in the course of nursing or otherwise, and whether of the utmost gravity or triviality. Therefore, although criminal convictions did not not amount to misconduct per se, where there were criminal convictions that would amount to misconduct, a professional person had infringed important statutory requirements in the course of duties of a senior and supervisory kind so as to attract a criminal sanction, a professional body and the court was bound to view those infringements with grave concern.

Mr Balamoody appeared in person; Robert Lawson (Word Hadaway) for the UKEC.

Magistrates' courts

Baxter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police: QBD (Div 1) (Schiemann LJ, Brian Smedley J) 8 May 1998. THERE WAS no section in any act which expressly provided that an applicant for bail needed to be personally present in court at the hearing of the application. Indeed, s 122 of

the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, which provided that an absent party who was legally represented should be deemed not to be absent, pointed to the fact that it was possible for a magistrates' court to proceed by advocate and not in person in certain circumstances, although the normal practice was that an accused would appear in person.

VAT

Allied Carpets Group Ltd v Comrs of Customs & Excise: QBD (Keene J) 7 May 1998. THE COST of holiday vouchers given to customers under a promotion scheme organised by a third party was not available to reduce the taxpayer's liability for value added tax. While the vouchers fell within the definition of "trading stamps", and would have been excluded from VAT by the Value Added Tax (Treatment of Transactions) Order 1973, the additional requirement that they should have been delivered to the customer by the retailer was not satisfied because the vouchers were delivered to the customers by a third party.

David Milne QC, Elizabeth Wilson (Garretts, Reading) for the taxpayer; Philippa Whipple (Solicitor, C & E) for the Crown.

Res judicata

Wain v F Sherwood & Sons Transport Ltd; CA (Butler-Sloss, Thorpe, Chadwick LJ) 4 June 1998. A NON-ACTIONABLE adviser error, which had given rise to

a failure to advance a plaintiff's complete claim in earlier proceedings, was not capable of constituting a special or exceptional circumstance so as to justify the refusal by a court to apply the principle in *Henderson v Henderson* (1843) 3 Hare 100, since the potential for injustice to a plaintiff who had no alternative remedy could not outweigh the public interest in preventing abuse of process, misuse of court time and potential unfairness or injustice involved in a defendant's facing another action based on the same incident, on which the principle in *Henderson* was based.

Julian Field (Peter Rickson & Pners) for the appellant; Neville Spencer-Lewis (Woolley & Weston, Welwyn Garden City) for the respondent.

Double tax relief

Memec plc v Inland Revenue Comrs: CA (Peter Gibson, Henry LJ, Sir Christopher Staughton) 9 June 1998. A UK company and a German holding company were organised under German law as a "silent partnership". The UK company was the silent partner entitled to a share of the German company's profits. Double tax relief would have been allowed for German trade tax paid by subsidiaries of the German company if the UK company received a dividend, but it could not be said either that a dividend was paid directly to the UK company by the trading subsidiaries or by the holding company to the UK company as a silent partner. Robert Venables QC, Julian Ghosh, Amanda Hardy (Pners) for the taxpayer; Laurence Henderson QC (R Solicitor) for the Crown.

GLANCING AT a fellow bus passenger's *Daily Telegraph* last week, I found myself grammatically challenged. "More than one centrist, female Labour MP" it said, "was called 'bitch' behind her back". More than one... was? Can that be right? Surely "more than one" is plural. "A singular subject takes

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
More than one (phr.)

a singular verb and a plural subject takes a plural verb," Bill Bryson says in his delightful *Penguin Dictionary of Troublesome Words*. "Anyone who can

distinguish between one and more than one shouldn't find that too sophisticated a challenge." But the *Telegraph* was right. As Fowler says: "More than one, though its sense is necessarily plural, is treated as a sort of compound of one, and... takes a singular verb." How irritatingly illogical of it.

They can laugh now. But life in Britain for Barbara Phillips and her immigrant mother has been no joke. By Randeep Ramesh

They used to tell us, 'go back home'

When the *Empire Windrush* docked at Tilbury a little over 50 years ago with its human cargo of 492 West Indians, the warmth of the British welcome more than compensated for the nation's damp and dreary climate. "Five Hundred Pairs of Willing Hands" ran the headline in the *Daily Worker*. "Welcome Home" topped a piece in the *London Evening Standard*.

Those hoping to settle in Britain today would find the populist press less accommodating. According to the *Sunday Times* earlier this month, "the cost of asylum-seekers arriving in Britain will reach £2.1bn in 1998, equal to 1p on income tax". "Shut that door" screamed *The Sun* the next day, and the *Daily Telegraph* went a step further, calling for the Government to "repatriate the hundreds of thousands of people already living in Britain illegally".

The reason for the change in the country's mood lies with recent history. Post-war Britain was a bomb-blasted shell with labour in short supply to fill the menial jobs the population thought beneath them. The Commonwealth provided a readily available source of cheap labour.

By 1956, London Transport was recruiting directly from Jamaica and Barbados. A Tory health minister called Enoch Powell even invited West Indian nurses to work in Britain. The nation could afford to welcome non-white immigrants.

However, the dream of a better life for many of those who came to stay was shattered in a few short months. The hospitality was soon replaced by hostility.

"They used to say 'go back home'," says Mandy Phillips, who came to Britain in 1960 from the tiny Caribbean island of Dominica. "You

know, Black this, Black that. White people did not want black people. They did not want dogs. They did not want the Irish. I can remember walking past a church on a Sunday and then these children started throwing bottles. It was a shock."

By 1960, there were about 150,000 West Indians and 60,000 Indians and Pakistanis in Britain. The new settlers were all citizens of the UK, thanks to the 1948 Nationality Act which conferred British passports to residents of the Commonwealth.

"Everyone was going to England. Everyone said it was better in England," recalls Mrs Phillips, who settled in Notting Hill.

Mrs Phillips was 29 in 1960 and paid \$375 for a 19-day trip on a boat - the *Sorrento* - which took her from the West Indies to Britain via Barcelona in Spain and Genoa in Italy. "I only came to stay for two years. And here I am, nearly 40 years later."

Like many other new settlers, Mrs Phillips took a job she was over-qualified for. In her home town of Roseau, Mrs Phillips was a manager of a local store - in her own words a "businesswoman" - but her first job in Britain was packing biscuits in a factory for £5 a week.

A report in 1955, entitled *The Colour Problem*, had already identified the seething discontent - fuelled by ignorance - of the host nation to the newly-arrived. It estimated two-thirds of Britain's white population held a "low opinion of black people or disapproved of them". A third resisted any contact with non-whites, would not allow mixed-race marriages, would not work with black people or allow them into their house and felt they "should not be allowed in Britain at all".

Worse still was the poor housing conditions many black people found themselves living in. Mrs Phillips

lived in a west London town house - where she and her family had only one room. "There was no hot water, no central heating and only one toilet in a house with three floors full of people."

The crude racism of the Sixties was enough to ensure black people were not keen on integration. "Mostly I knew other Dominicans. We used to keep in touch by writing to each other - because none of us could afford telephones," says Mrs Phillips. "We had parties, drank wine and Guinness and listened to Blues music. I was polite to white people, but I did not invite them to our parties. They did not invite us to theirs."

But the days of importing economic migrants were numbered. It took just three days to pass the 1968 Commonwealth Immigrants Act -

created to stop Kenyan Asians with British passports entering the country. But it was the late Enoch Powell who closed Britain's door. Powell's incendiary speech made him a parliamentary pariah, but his call for strict immigration controls were heeded by both Labour and Conservative politicians.

The then Tory frontbencher's "Rivers of Blood" speech ushered in a new era which culminated in the draconian 1971 Immigration Act. According to the London Research Centre: "1971 marked the end of black immigration for settlement."

This did not make it any easier for the next generation growing up in Britain. Mrs Phillips' daughter, Barbara, was born in 1963. Leaving school after her O-levels, she joined the TSB bank in Hammersmith. "I was one of the only two black faces

in the whole of the south-east. The staff all used to use words like wog, nigger, and paki and expect me not to be offended. I went to see the manager and all he said was: 'wog means western oriental gentleman'. I left soon after that."

"I then worked in BHS and the same things happened there. I worked in Alfred Marks (a recruitment agency) and one employer told me they did not take black staff. So I went to see him to ask him why and when I walked through the door the boss looked everywhere - the floor, the ceiling, the door - but not at my face."

After her experiences in the job market, Barbara went back to school, paying her way through university. Now 35, she runs her own marketing and public relations company, Brownstone Communications.

"Things are much better now, but you still get advertising agencies who look at you in a funny way if you say 'why not put a black face in?'"

Britain has gained enormously from its ethnic diversity. Yet foreigners from outside the European Union, who do not have the support of an employer or £200,000 in cash, have only two ways to stay in Britain. Either they have a spouse or parent already in the country or they must convince suspicious Home Office officials they are fleeing a disaster of almost Biblical proportions.

The status quo not only blots Britain's liberal credentials, it implies that immigration hinders, rather than helps, the country. Nothing could be further from the truth. Business has given rise to success stories such as financier Carl Cusack, who came to Britain in 1963 as

a teenager from the West Indies, and employs 40 people in his £100m company. Sport is enriched by boxer Naseem Hamed, whose family hail from Yemen, and footballer Paul Ince, ethnically West Indian.

Tough immigration laws will end that and much more. According to Labour MP Keith Vaz, some Indian restaurants have been waiting for up to two years for a suitable chef to be allowed entry. Emigration, not immigration, is now commonplace. Last year, the BBC's *Black Britain* estimated that nearly 40,000 West Indians had returned since 1964 to the Caribbean after living in Britain for more than 20 years.

"They had just had enough," said Mary Slater, whose parents returned to Jamaica this year. "This is my home, but I don't think it was ever my parents'."



Mandy and Barbara Phillips: 'things are better, but you still get advertising agencies who look at you in a funny way if you suggest using a black face' Andrew Burnman

After 'Playboy' her uncles said she'd burn in hell

So, this is the most beautiful girl in the world?

Continued from page 1

to me, quite hit the spot. We are joined by her boyfriend and manager, Ray Manzella, who seems to be the Superbabe King of Hollywood. He used to look after Pamela Anderson. He now looks after a string of babes, including "Wheel of Fortune's" Vanna White, whoever she may be. He is 49, and has that LA sunned look, the one that makes men his age look part over-vinegared conker, part the wrinkled-up, badly-fitting American Tan tights your grandma always wears.

A propos of nothing whatsoever, I kick off the conversation by asking if it's possible to breastfeed with silicone implants. Jenny has implants. She says, "I wouldn't do it. I wouldn't feel safe, no." Ray says: "Honey, it's perfectly safe and natural. The milk goes straight to the nipples."

She says: "I just wouldn't feel right doing it, y'know." I say a silicone baby might not be such a bad thing. It could double as basketball. She screeches: "Oh, I love that. Don't you love that, Ray?" Ray goes: "That's so funny!" I think they might want to adopt me. As they live in Hollywood and have a big house and a big pool and everything, I tell them it's OK with me if it's OK with them.

Jenny was raised in Chicago's South Side. Her father, Dan, is a steelworker. Her mother, Lynda, was a housewife until recently,

when she got a job as a cleaner at the local courthouse. She has three sisters - Amy, Lynette, Joanne. There was only one bathroom in their house. "So you can imagine what that was like!"

She had a very working class, very Catholic upbringing. It was church not just on Sunday, "but every day". Three of her aunts are nuns. Six of her uncles are priests. She attended the Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, which was anything but liberal. It was run by nuns who "were always telling you how your soul was going to burn in hell."

She thinks she always wanted to be a movie star. As a child, she called herself Rhonda, which she thought was glamorous, and pranced about a lot in her mother's jewellery. She wanted to be rich, too. The better-off girls at McAuley High drove their own Mercedes to school. She didn't like being poor. It embarrassed her. As she recalls: "I wouldn't let anyone come back to my house." She was always quite determined, it seems.

She went to college to study nursing, but packed it in after two years. She was \$10,000 in debt, she says, and couldn't afford to continue. She worked in a deli, slicing Polish sausage, while trying to make it as a fashion model on the side. She had her breasts enlarged when she was 19. She says she regrets it now.

"At that age, you just think the bigger the better. I had sizeable breasts before, a size B, which is a nice handful, and my plastic surgeon said to me, 'what are you doing?' Those are fine." But I just wanted them bigger." The problem now,



Pictures of Jenny are generally not destined for the sideboards of Wembley Andrew Burnman

she says, is that blokes tend "not to look you in the eye. They're just looking at your chest."

She didn't get far as a conventional model. Her debts escalated. One day, she found herself standing outside the Playboy building. The voice inside her head, she says,

was going "No! Jenny, No!", but still she went through the door and hopped in the elevator. She then persuaded the picture editor to let her pose for a test shot. Three days later, she was crowned *Playboy's* Miss October 1993.

Yes, of course, her family was dev-

astated. Horrified! Naively, she thought she could get away with it by sending her parents on a Caribbean Cruise at the time of publication. She paid for it out of her *Playboy* earnings, although she didn't tell them that. "I said I'd been saving for two years..."

They went off, *Playboy* came out, word spread like wildfire, her aunts and uncles called to say "you are going to burn in hell" and "your soul belongs to the devil now". Jenny wrote one letter to her mother, a separate one to her father, and then ran away to L.A. On their return, her parents refused to speak to her for a week. "But then they said, OK, you've been a good daughter, and this is what you've decided to do, so we'll support you in this."

We have to break off here, so Jenny can go and do the signing. We go down on to the main shop floor, where a little stage has been erected for her. A queue has formed already. It is quite some queue. It goes round the Spice Girl rack, down to the World Cup CD collection, round through Reggae & Blues, back through Disco, over to Country, then practically on to the door. A great, snaking line of it, it seemed to me, hundreds of sallow-faced adolescent boys in draw-string anoraks and those Mister Byrite jeans that need continual hoisting but rarely get it. I pick out one of them, at random. Why are you here? I ask him. "Well, she's a nice-looking bird, isn't she?" And where have you come from today? "I live with my mum in Wembley."

They go up, one by one on to the stage. Jenny says: "Hi, sweetie." They blush ecstatically, take some Polaroids and get their special edition pictures (of Jenny scarcely clad) signed. Frankly, I do not think the signed pictures are destined for the sideboards of Wembley's living rooms.

More likely, I imagine, they'll be

stashed somewhere altogether more private, until mum's watched 999, straightened the antimacassars on the Dralon suite and gone up to bed - the signal, perhaps, for a bit of single-handed, happy camping.

I ask Ray if it bothers him, all these blokes all over the world fantasising about his girlfriend. He says: "No. To tell you the truth, I'm only bothered when people start bothering Jenny on the street. That's real annoying."

He has big plans for her. Her first big movie - the comedy *BASEketball* - is out next month. She is superb in it, he says. "She leaps out at you." And she may or may not play the Farrah Fawcett-Majors part in a movie of *Charlie's Angels*. "It's gonna depend on the script. It's gotta be good." Ray says he's been good for Jenny. "I've been able to introduce her to a lot of older films." Like "James Bond. Now she knows what Pussy Galore means."

The signing is over. Jenny must have signed hundreds of pictures. I ask her if she has to go to wrist aerobics. She says: "When I did signings for *Playboy*, I did four hours at a time. I'm used to it." She adds that, lately, she hasn't had much time to go to the gym and "I'm not as toned as I could be. Look." She attempts to jiggle her upper-arm. Nothing moves.

Jenny, I say, if I did that, every-one in this room would find themselves slapped against the walls. She goes: "I like that! I like that!" Ray goes: "C'mon honey, you need a nap." Off they go.

I could, I suppose, forward my beauty tips by post.

Some just keep walking



Jane Dryburgh and her son have not given up hope that her husband will return. He disappeared in February

Colin McPherson

Jane Dryburgh is hoping for a message today. A phone call, perhaps a card, anything indicating that her husband Allan is alive and safe. On February 2, he walked out of their front door in Rosyth as if he was going to work. He never returned. Today is their son's 19th birthday.

When middle-aged men suddenly leave family, friends, jobs and disappear, sometimes it's the children who bring them back. Chris Stone from Inverness came back last year after being gone for 11 months. He had secretly gone to France and had survived, indeed thrived by grape picking. Then one day he realised that it was his son's birthday and he called home.

Last week, Matthew Choyce's wife was hoping that a similar feeling will bring her husband to the phone. Dr Choyce, 34, a hospital physician, left home in the middle of the night last year, after suffering depression. This week, his wife was pictured in the press holding their new-born son. "I just want Matthew to get in touch," she said, "to let him know how I am, how beautiful our baby is, to find out how he is and hug us closely. We really are a family now."

Perhaps the appeal will work. Many of these men really want to be searched out. "A number of missing people have rung me to complain that their cases have not been advertised in the *Big Issue* magazine," says Sophie Woodforde of the National Missing Persons Helpline. "I know of one chap who really wanted to be found, but did not have the courage to ring home. He would go out driving, pretend to break down and call up the RAC in the hope that they would lead his fam-

Last week, a woman gave birth to a baby boy and appealed for her missing husband to return. Like many men he had walked out one morning and never come back. By Jack O'Sullivan

ily to him. But they always found something wrong with the car. Eventually he went home himself."

Going missing is not simply a male or a middle-aged issue. But it is predominantly men who disappear in later life. And the reasons are very different from teenage runaways, who are frequently escaping family conflict and domestic abuse. Debt, depression, the burden of too many responsibilities tend to explain a sudden departure. But there are also those who feel an irresistible urge to break free.

A striking feature of many cases is the casualness, the nonchalance, the unplanned spontaneity with which so many abandon their lives. Again and again, they play out the almost clichéd theme of the man who went out to buy a packet of fags and never came back. When Alan Dryburgh walked away in February, he took no clothes and left his money, credit cards, keys and rail pass at home. All he took with him was several months' supply of blood pressure tablets. He stopped at the newspaper shop to buy a packet of Polos and walked away from his life.

In her new novel, *The Last To Know*, Candida Crewe describes by uncanny coincidence a middle-aged doctor, named Kim, who suddenly leaves home.

Kim is just zipping out to buy his wife ice cream for dessert. But the shop doesn't have her favourite flavour and he becomes confused as to whether he should buy her a different brand or try elsewhere. So he sits down and his mind wanders as

he watches cars go by and tries to guess their makes by the shape of the headlights.

He gets very cold and overwhelmingly hungry, when he spots an Indian restaurant. Craving a curry, Kim thinks he'll have a quick one and ring his wife from the restaurant to explain. But the phone is out of order. Even after eating, he is still intending to go home and spots a telephone box nearby. It's in the opposite direction of home, but he thinks it better to ring than go straight home. He walks towards it, but someone is already in the booth. So he carries on walking and finds himself in the centre of Oxford.

As a doctor, Kim always seems to be in such a hurry and he finds himself enjoying the free time, overwhelmed by the beauty of the floodlit Magdalen College. But he is feeling very cold again. He sees a coach opening its doors beside him and feels the waft of inviting warm air.

In an hour or two, he's in London's Victoria coach station, longing for a night's sleep. He chooses the longest journey from the notice board. By next morning he is in Inverness, at home he's a missing person.

"I'm fascinated by how, through a series of circumstances, a man can get carried away with the moment," says Candida Crewe. "It's all so physical, the yearning for a curry, warmth, a sleep. He doesn't really think of the consequences. But the longer he doesn't call home the harder it becomes. And then, after a while, he starts to think that perhaps they are better off without him."

There are similarities between Crewe's fiction and reality. In particular, according to people who work with missing persons, some men really have a problem in talking about or even understanding the pressures in their lives. Leaving is their way of coping. It may even be an expression of love. One is re-

mindful of so many suicides, which notes often reveal as an act of benevolence by the dead person, fearful of burdening loved ones with problems.

In Rosyth, Jane Dryburgh suspects that such an attitude explains her husband's four-month absence. He was, she says, having problems at work, but she now realises that they were not of the importance that he might have imagined. "Allan is six foot one, 18 stone and a former prop forward in the Navy," she says. "If he had a problem and thought it would cause David and me distress, he would think that he was doing us a favour by walking away. He tends to put us on a pedestal and if he thought he had let us down, he must have felt his only option was to go. He could only think that we have benefited from him leaving."

In other cases, a succession of unexpected events can prompt a mid-life crisis. Candida Crewe has had

long discussions with Chris Stone about why he left home in Inverness. He was 37 and his life seemed to have lost its meaning. Work wasn't going well. One night his wife was on a late shift, his 16-year-old daughter was on holiday and his 14-year-old son was out. He brooded all night at home, feeling neglected. Next morning, Chris picked up his daughter from the airport, bringing her boyfriend along for the journey. Other than lugging the bags home and paying for the taxi, he felt fairly redundant. So he went off to the train station, bought a ticket to London and headed to France. All he took with him was some scruffy camping gear, £130 and his bicycle.

You might think that many of these disappearances can be explained by adultery or secret lovers. You would be wrong. Instances of men disappearing with other women without a word to their families are rare. At the National Missing Persons Helpline, staff can remember few instances. Perhaps it is because wives usually know, maybe unconsciously, when there is another woman involved and so do not report him as missing. When there is no other woman involved, the disappearance seems baffling, which is probably why it gets reported.

Whatever the reason, when men go missing, they leave chaos behind. For the 11 months of Chris Stone's absence, his wife Sue had to rely on the odd cheque turning up at his bank indicating that he was somewhere in France. She felt that he almost wanted to be found. Knowing

that he had taken his house keys with him, she clung to the belief that he would return. Now that he is back, she is just glad to see him. But his children are less forgiving of their prodigal father.

Meanwhile Jane Dryburgh doesn't even know whether her husband, Allan, is still alive. There have been none of the long, silent phone calls which the missing often use as a code to tell their loved ones that they are okay. He has not used his bank account. She is convinced now, having blitzed the local media, that he is not nearby. She has placed posters in London and all over Portsmouth, where Allan was once stationed with the Navy and has friends.

"The greatest fear," says Sophie Woodforde of the NMPH, "is that the missing person has had an accident and has died. In fact, that is the least likely reason for someone to be missing."

Mrs Dryburgh keeps searching. She cannot just rely on her husband eventually coming home. "A consultant psychiatrist has told me that when people leave home, they often go for a walk and sometimes something happens along the way. They either keep walking because they don't know how to stop or because they forget who they are. He said that if Allan has forgotten, then it's not a question of him coming home. It's a question of me finding him."

The National Missing Persons Helpline is funded solely by charitable donation. Its freephone number is 0500 700 700. Message Home is a confidential freephone number for anyone missing who wishes to say they are alive and safe: 0500 700 740.

'THE LAST TO KNOW'

"SOMETIMES, awake at night, or to pass an idle moment in a post office queue, he enjoyed speculating about what would happen if he just walked out of his life, not because the world was falling in on him, but purely for the sake of free-wheeling. Who didn't? But they were fleeting thoughts only, insignifi-

cant, and the stuff of common, not even extraordinary, curiosity. Everyone had them. Over the years countless patients had said to him: 'Sometimes, Doctor, I just wonder what it would be like if I were to walk away from everything,' but they never did. The sentiments were common enough but - pretty well - everyone dis-

missed them pretty damn quick, for the simple reason that they were also impractical, sad, impossible and, in a matter of fact, completely devoid of appeal."

Extract from *The Last To Know*, by Candida Crewe, published this month by Century, £14.99

The hangover, the witch and the wardrobe

IN THE STICKS

STEVIE MORGAN

WHERE DO Jehovah's Witnesses come from? I never hear a car come down the lane, and it must be 15 miles to the nearest Kingdom Hall. I don't even know how they find us, because nobody else can; when Louis, our regular postman, goes to Bideford to stay with his cousins in July, we don't get any post for two weeks. If I wasn't a good card-carrying Darwinian I might begin to believe in spontaneous generation, that Jehovah's Witnesses simply arise from discarded hymn books or the mud at the bottom of flower urns in cemeteries.

They did their annual materialisation last Saturday morning in a mixed sex trio, although it was hard to guess what those sexes

might be. Clutching pamphlets to their bosoms, or whatever sin-free area it is they have in lieu of bosoms, their clean little faces peeped over the top of my stable door.

It wasn't exactly a classic country kitchen scene that met them: Friday night's wine-tasting session had got out of hand because Richie, our three-fields-away vintner neighbour, was too enthusiastic. I don't think any of us could have told a premier cru from a bottle of ketchup by the end of the third case. There was chicken blood and feathers all over the table because I'd started my day at dawn doing emergency surgery on our two oversexed cockerels, who'd nearly killed each other again. And the whole kitchen

smelled of goat because the sarongs that Buster (11) and Bunny (nine) brought back from hols with their dad - we're divorced - were festooned over the Aga drying. I was sitting with my new chap very quietly amidst the empties, drinking ruby grapefruit juice - because it was the only thing left in the fridge and there was no coffee - and taking it in turns to doodle on the side of a wine box in an attempt to persuade something to come into focus.

I saw for a split second the scene

through the eyes of the visitors: a woman and a man sitting at a table drawing bold red shapes (only thing to hand a magic marker) and drinking a blood-like fluid. They have hardly any clothes on (nightie, pyjama bottoms). The remains of ritual sacrifice are on the table. And the pagan robes from last night's bacchanal are hanging up to dry.

I expected them to whip out the bell, the book and the candle on the spot, but, before they had the chance to do so, a couple about whom I'd utterly forgotten arrived

to view the hideous (but, I pray, valuable) wardrobe in our bedroom, which was in the small ads of the local paper last week.

They were elderly and must have been in mourning, or were, perhaps, acolytes for the Grim Reaper - for both of them were dressed entirely in black. The Witnesses evidently took them to be more members of the coven arriving for a swift half of virgin's blood before lunch. Outnumbered, they just shoved some anti-evolution literature through the open door and

fled. At least the gossip value of such a scene meant that it wouldn't be long before a retelling.

The wardrobe couple didn't seem keen on social interaction, or even giving me time to tidy the bedroom before they went up to inspect the "item", as they kept calling it. They progressed upstairs like automata, with me scuttling in front swishing things behind cushions and trying to remember not to head over as my nightie doesn't really conceal anything at either end if I lean more than 30 degrees off the vertical.

I yanked the cover over the bed and was explaining about the glorious carving and how my mother acquired the wardrobe in a sale in Solihull in 1956 when I noticed

something pink against the blue carpet. It was a small, sad contraceptive, curled like a squashed prawn. There's no way they missed it. Their expression of distaste suggested that they had never had sex of any sort, with anyone at any time. I think it put them off the wardrobe. They drove away with more haste than was decent in people so old and so pious-looking. It's my fault for not allowing the dog upstairs, because our last condom embarrassment was canine-solved: we had gingerly e-mailed a friend to say that we'd left something behind under her spare bed; she said no problem - the border terrier eats the used ones. I'm pretty sure collie crosses do the same.

There's a hole in Dad's argument

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK: A FATHER AND SON TALK ABOUT THEIR REVOLUTION AND ENTHUSIASM FOR BODY-PIERCING

PHILLIP HODSON, 52, is a psychotherapist and broadcaster who lives in north London. He is a member of the British Association for Counselling, writes a problem page for 'Woman's Journal' and is author of the 'Cosmopolitan Guide to Love, Sex and Relationships'. Adept at helping other people with their problems, he is maybe not so good when it comes to his own.

Intellectually, I understand the need to do body-piercing, but emotionally and aesthetically I find it very hard to accept what my son is doing. He has got 12 piercings, he informs me. This is the little boy I saw born: I feel that the body that I helped create has been invaded and in some ways mutilated. Now I know the distinction between psychological self-harming and what he does, but it gives me the same feeling, so I start to worry. He assures me that it's all reversible and he hasn't, interestingly enough, tattooed himself, which is a fact that I cling to.

"In one sense, I understand that he wants to overcome my influence, to defeat my values, to become himself. But part of me says: 'This is narcissistic nonsense.' Then I look at it and think to myself: 'You stupid old fogey. Why do you fall for it?'"

"It began with Alex saying 'I want an ear-ring' and us saying 'You're not having one. We're not paying for that.' Then he said 'I can pay for it myself', and what he's subtly done is add ear-rings and ear-rings and ear-rings. He tells me that one of the motivations, besides the fact that it represents his particular subculture, is that girls find it attractive.

"The things that really affected me were the nipples and the eyebrow. The eyebrow gives me what my father would have called the willies. I object to the tongue because I'm very keen on people talking clearly and accurately and the tongue-piercing obscures the sound of the vowels. I think he's stopped now. Below the belt, the Albert as it is called, is one activity that I think even he isn't going to do.

"He's got a broad rebellious streak and it doesn't take a genius



Body piercing is a spiky issue for the Hodsons. Phillip says Alex's piercings have reduced him to the level of primal savagery, and Alex counters: 'What's bad about that?' *Neville Elder*

to understand that he's picked up some of this from the family. I didn't wear a tie at school. But not wearing a tie is one thing. Sticking a needle through your flesh is another.

"Having said all that, it doesn't change the relationship between us. I know enough to understand that you don't make your children and you don't control them. There's nothing I can do, when he's 19, to run his life. I'm not responsible for his body, his mind or his behaviour. He must take responsibility for that."

ALEXANDER HOOPER-HODSON, 19, lives with his parents. He is on his gap year, having gained three A grades at A-level in art, English and politics. In September he starts a foundation course at Chelsea College of Art, in London, after which he hopes to study graphic design.

"I got my first ear-ring done when I was about 14 and I really liked the way it looked. Over the last five years I have built up from small ear-rings to body-piercings. I don't really see a dividing line between the two.

"It's something which on many different levels I like. On the aesthetic level, they look nice. But it's also to do with what they feel like. Certain piercings, such as the tongue barbell, you can feel all the time.

You can move it around inside your mouth as if it were part of the body, although there aren't any practical applications - apart from kissing and oral sex, I suppose.

"Some rings increase the sensitivity of certain areas. For instance, if you're a man, your nipples aren't very sensitive, but once you have

them pierced they become three times more sensitive. So you're almost creating new erogenous zones. Some people get their genitals done, but I haven't. My girlfriend's got her clitoris pierced and she says it heightens the sensitivity threefold. We've both got 12 piercings - it's quite coincidental.

"Certain other piercings draw attention to parts of your body you feel are attractive. I like my eyebrows, so having a barbell through one draws attention to it. But I don't like my nose, so I won't have it pierced.

"When I got my tongue pierced,

my dad said 'Don't you think you're just reducing yourself to the level of primal savagery?' to which I said 'I don't really see what's wrong with primal savagery'. It's not primitive in the sense of backwards.

"I went to a job interview with the BBC on Monday and the first thing the guy commented on was the fact that I had my tongue and eyebrow pierced.

"I don't know whether that bodes well for my job prospects! But unless my face is important or I'm in the public eye, I don't see that it's anyone's business. It's only small-

mindedness on the part of the employer. Piercings are not like clothes, they're much more a part of you. It's almost like a customisation of your own body.

"My original ear-rings were to do with feeling that I wanted to be rebellious, but, for a long time, I haven't been having piercings for that reason. The more my parents accept it, the better. If it upsets them, that's their problem. This is how I am and they either accept it or deal with it in their own way."

CLARE GARNER

Choose life, choose the family

If you want to live longer, become a househusband. By Anthony Tasgal

WE ARE constantly told that the average male worker wants nothing more than to improve the balance between work and home life, especially if it means spending more time with his children.

If any of us nearly-new dads needs encouragement to spend more time with the family, last week we were offered another blinding incentive. A new study shows that fathers who stay at home to help raise their children could actually live longer than their working colleagues.

Women live longer than men, that we know. But now it appears that it's the daily grind of going out to work that kills men. Any fool on the 6.10 intercity to Euston could tell you that, but now we have proof.

Let me contribute to the sum of knowledge and examine my stress levels since I decided to downshift in December last year.

The last six months have been unlike any of the previous 15 years I spent working full-time. Not just for the prosaic reasons - the immediate sense of liberation from mutually arranged servitude is just as exhilarating now as it was then.

Besides, the litany of new and exciting personal fulfilments over the period would keep authors of self-help guides brimming with contentment: reading to Josh's class, ferrying Zach to his first days at playgroup and just being around baby Saskia. Who needs the interminable politics and poisonous cabals of office life when you can play tennis?

But wait a minute - does my new-found longevity bring stress-reduction too? Is my life not just longer, but also more peaceful and fulfilling?

Actually, no. Since downshifting, I have been subject to all

sorts of new stresses. First is the nostalgia for the cause-and-effect chain known as the monthly salary cheque: you turn up, it turns up. Of course I have more time to enjoy my children, but now I live in fear that every day without work brings me nearer to selling one of them.

We all need structure and pattern in our lives. But downshifting disrupts that. With three children, my wife had established her own patterns and routines. Then came the decision to downshift and suddenly from both of us being out at work, we were both home-based. My former routine fragmented instantly, so instead of being largely absent, I became a kaleidoscope of alternative appearances. I was either out working unsociable hours, in working unsociable hours, in and trying to work, in looking after the kids or out with the kids. The bound-

aries had moved and my wife no longer knew where her carefully structured life had gone.

One minute I was never around to make choices involving school, recreation, presents or parties. Then hey presto, what had been her fiefdom became a democracy, and nobody knew who was in charge. A lot of time was taken up with negotiation and discussion when previously a decision was simply made and action directly taken. I began to feel that instead of contributing, I was merely complicating things.

We have adopted a phrase called E-quality time: recognising we have a right to equal amounts of time to ourselves. Working from home combined with childcare might seem an idyllic alternative to office life, but unless you organise your time to minimise conflict, it's not going to lengthen your life by a day.

Young love finds a way in the parental home

How should you deal with a child who has become accustomed to sexual freedom at college?

By Lara Kilner

THE LAST essay has been handed in, the final exam paper completed, the summer balls are over. It's the time of year when students pack their bags and have nowhere to go but home. And what have their parents to look forward to? In many cases the sound of creaking floorboards, unzipping jeans and banging headboards.

Research suggests that 40 per cent of men aged 20-34 still live in the parental home. Sixty years ago the average age for women to lose their virginity was 21. In the 1990s it is 17. A recent survey suggested that only 3 per cent of young people think sex should be saved for the wedding night.

The result is a generation who find themselves juggling mature sexual relationships with the moral concerns of their mothers and fathers. For young people returning home after their college days, living with parents after years of enjoying their independence can be very difficult. And sex is one of their main concerns.

Rachel Parsons, 23, lives with her parents in Buckinghamshire. She was in Spain for a time after university, but returned home when her cash ran out. She has recently started a relationship with an old friend, Billy, who lives in the same town, also with his parents.

"We don't have much chance to spend time alone together because of the parent thing, and also because we have the same group of friends," says Rachel.



Some couples can be driven to extreme solutions *Andrew Hassan*

"The only time we're alone is when he comes back to my house for coffee and my parents are in bed. I think they respect that and give us time alone."

But it wasn't the coffee that brought Billy home to Rachel's after a night at the pub. "When we first did it, I couldn't believe I was considering having sex in either of our parents' houses. But you can't go on thinking 'Well, we'll get the opportunity eventually'. And we've been getting gradually braver. The other night, my mum was still up watching TV upstairs, but we went ahead and had sex anyway."

Despite the risky nature of Rachel's sexual encounters, she has never been caught "on the job". Yet.

Robert Pearson, a 22-year-old student, hasn't been so lucky. After graduating from Leicester University, he moved to London. He was broke and had no option but to move in with his girlfriend, Jane, at her parents' house. Jane's father caught them in the act: "We

were both completely starters in Jane's room. The door opened and her dad came in. I just hid down the side of the bed. He looked so shocked, he just said sorry and closed the door. It was never mentioned but we were all embarrassed."

How do parents deal with a child who has become accustomed to the independence of living away from home? Eileen Bates, mother of a 24-year-old daughter who is a recent graduate, adheres to the "not under my roof" policy. "When my daughter brings her boyfriend home, he sleeps in the spare bedroom. I have no control over what happens elsewhere, but, when he comes to my home, I expect them to respect my wishes."

Andrea Jones has a teenage son whose girlfriend stays over at the family home on a regular basis. She feels it takes a long time for many parents, and especially single parents, to come to terms with the fact that their children are having sex: "It's more than just the reali-

sation that your children are grown up. It's like the end of a chapter in your own life. You were always the sexually active member of the household and now your children are doing it."

Robert feels his sex life with Jane suffered while he was living with her parents: "It was very hard. She felt generally guilty about having sex in her parents' home and I felt I was abusing their hospitality. Intense and loving sex goes out of the window, and you're reduced to having quickies. We would be jumping on each other as soon as they popped out to Safeway for 10 minutes."

Rachel and Billy suffer from the "quickies only" problem, too: "There's something about the scenario that makes you feel like a 16-year-old all over again, which isn't the best really. We've even taken to having sex in my mum's Mini Metro on occasions. But I think the relationship would only suffer if it were built out of less solid stuff. Sex is a bonus, but it's not the main thing."

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Liquidator of the above-named company, which is a company registered in England, No. 2627, is now in the process of winding up the company and is offering for sale the assets of the company.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named company are required to submit their claims to the Liquidator by the date specified in the notice to creditors, which is 21st July 1998.

For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend the meeting of creditors to be held on 21st July 1998 at 10.30 am at the offices of the Liquidator, 2627, to vote on the resolution to be put to the meeting.

Shareholders of the company are also required to attend the meeting of shareholders to be held on 21st July 1998 at 10.30 am at the offices of the Liquidator, 2627, to vote on the resolution to be put to the meeting.

Dated 4th June 1998
P J Walker, Liquidator

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Dated 4th June 1998
P J Walker, Liquidator

كلنا من الواصل

Special units that deal with difficult schoolchildren are not the brutal institutions you might think. By Penny Fox

Living in the sin bin

If your child refuses to go to school - any school - what can you do? Or if they're excluded, expelled for an offence that you may tolerate at home but which the school regards as heinous?

Among the 13,000 or so children permanently excluded from school each year are those who come from, as one parent observed, "the nicest of homes". Middle-class families can find themselves in an educational nightmare that they never anticipated.

One solution that may be offered is the RU - Pupil Referral Unit. Still suffering from their 1970s image of "sin bins", they are regarded by parents as the last resort, the place where all the kids go when no-one else wants them. And who wants that for their children? The experience of two families lies that reputation.

Tyn Ratcliffe is Headteacher of the Francis Barber Pupil Referral Unit in Wandsworth, south London. Around half of the 10 secondary-age pupils who attend have been excluded from school, but the majority of the remainder have been chronic non-attenders and left of their own accord. The standard offer at Francis Barber is a core curriculum of three half-day sessions: some pupils receive more, others less, with the majority staying for an average of two to three terms. Any fears that visits may have of ruining teenage delinquents are dispelled in the atmosphere of this small, clean, two-building unit. All is calm and welcoming, though Ratcliffe observes that there are sometimes "flare ups".

There are Ratcliffe observes, a stack of reasons why children don't want to go to school:

"There is a significant group who find the whole experience of school so overwhelming, so intimidating and with pressures too difficult to deal with that the only way to escape those is to opt with their feet. They just don't go. One major reason for children not wanting to be at school is because it's not safe for them to be there."

As an onparent commented: "For people like us - middle class professionals - there is a black hole that you fall into because the local au-

thorities think your child will be all right. What really breaks my heart is that, if we'd been informed, he could have gone to Francis Barber at a much earlier stage and his education might have been a very different picture."

"We had to carry him screaming into the school"

Jane Pike, a business development manager, and her husband Tom, an architect, have two children: 16-year-old Bayly is the younger. Bayly is intelligent and articulate but has a slight paralysis on the left-hand side of his body, one of the effects of which is that he has learning difficulties similar to dyslexia. He is also highly anxious. Bayly coped well with school until he was about seven years old when, Jane says, he became "school phobic".

"Tom and I had to carry him, literally screaming, into the school. It was the most heartbreaking thing in my life, every day this screaming and crying."

"We tried a little private school with very small classes. It was a great success, but fiendishly expensive, and it broke Tom and I to send him there. But when he was 11 we had to find something equivalent in a secondary school."

The Pikes then tried a weekly boarding school. After just over one term, Bayly refused to go. This was followed by quite a long period of private tutoring before he went to a state school for "delicate" children.

"But it was full of very tough, often quite emotionally disturbed children, very alien to anything Bayly had come across before, in huge contrast to the private school. It was hard for him and he got very scared. After a couple of terms he said he couldn't go back, he just snapped."

A local private school was the next attempt, but the strict discipline was too stressful for Bayly. He lasted for about a term.

"By now he was 14. We decided to get a private tutor. After a year, she suggested that if Bayly was going to do GCSEs, he needed to be attached to some educational organisation and she suggested Francis Barber. Bayly was appalled. He thought some of the children who had been at the "delicate" school



Early exposure to classroom bullying caused Bayly Pike to 'exclude himself' from school says his mother Jane

Neville Elder

would be there. But Francis Barber said he could go there when there were no other pupils around, and that slowly built up. Now he goes during school hours, completely under his own steam.

"I went to have a look and really liked it; it smelt nice, not like a school. I thought it would be full of children with a bad history, that it's the last resort. But it's been wonderful and Bayly's happy. He's worried about his future but he's got more confidence and has more self-esteem and a feeling of optimism. Bayly was never excluded from school; he excluded himself."

"Whenever somebody mentions school it sends shivers down my spine"

"I think I was bullied by my teacher in junior school and then, towards the end of it, by the other kids in the class," says Bayly Pike. "The kids doing it made me sad but I was more affected by her doing it. She was just horrible."

"I went to a boarding school but I couldn't handle the boarding and didn't go after a while. I didn't learn anything at the special school. It had a lot of rough boys, they were into

burglary and drugs, crime. I absolutely despised it, hated it, but because I'd caused so many problems for my parents, I stayed for as long as I possibly could.

"The private tutor rescued me really. Whenever somebody mentions the word 'school' it sends shivers down my spine, but she suggested Francis Barber and we would drive down and sit outside it for a while and then go home again. Another day, one of the teachers would come outside and give me work to do. It was a big step to go in."

"I thought it would be full of the people who had fallen out of the special school. There are one or two people from there, and it's horrible to see them. I have felt frightened but not very often. It doesn't feel like a school; they're not really telling you to do this, they ask whether you want to do it or not. It says a lot for the pupils that they do go. I want to go on to college or university; I've been out of the conventional thing for ages and I'd like to try it."

"I had expected to find teacher-stabbers"

Angela Robinson was a teacher for more than 20 years. Aged 50, she has

three children, one of whom, William, was expelled from school in February for possession of a small piece of marijuana on school premises. This happened four months before he was due to take his GCSEs.

He had been failing to attend school regularly since his father's death in an accident in 1985 which, Angela says, resulted in William becoming very withdrawn.

"It's quite ironic that I, who was involved for so long with education, should have a child who was expelled from school. I think William was expelled partly because, since his father's death, he had truanted so much and missed so much work that they didn't think he would get very good grades, so they wanted him out. I tried to get him a place in other schools but he refused the places offered. He felt he couldn't cope, could not go into another institution."

A teaching colleague told me about Francis Barber. I thought it was not quite the sort of place where I would have wanted my son to go, but by this time I was at my wit's end and I thought it would be at least a useful place for him to sit the exams."

"I had reservations about the sort of children that would be there.

I hate to say this, but I had expected to find the 'socially disadvantaged' there, where manners and learning were lacking on all levels, and that among them would be some teacher-stabbers."

"A lot of my friends are teachers and, inevitably, what they chat about are the horrendous activities that have occurred in class: the kids that won't sit down, the kid that swore violently at them, the kid that chucked the seats around. I thought they would all be at Francis Barber so I viewed it in the most negative way possible."

"The reality was so different that I'm embarrassed about my original thoughts. Even as a teacher, I had never entered my head that if there was a child who wouldn't go anywhere else, he might want to go there."

William initially refused to go: "I pleaded and cajoled, tried on every level to get him to go out of the door but he wouldn't. The teacher visited us a couple of times and eventually William went in, he knew there was someone there he was capable of relating to and he's been going regularly ever since. I don't have to remind him, he actually goes of his own accord - and he arrives. He'd

been going to school for years but never arriving."

"I got a lot of stress off the teachers"

"When I was at school, my predicted marks weren't very good at all and I should be able to do much better here," says William Robinson. "It's more-or-less one-to-one tuition, but it's sometimes with other people. You're just left to get on with it really. I've also got an English tutor and an Art tutor at home, which helps. My mum pays for them."

"I don't think going full-time would be as good. I don't think I would be up for that. I had a lot of trouble from school, I was often late and absent quite a lot. I got behind with my coursework and they don't really like that very much."

"I thought it might be quite rough here, but I gave it a go and it's really all right. There aren't so many people about; at school there are loads of people."

"At school, I was being given a test every term. I got a lot of stress off the teachers, and some of them were really out of order. There was a lot of pressure on me. I'm glad I left there."

Why don't you just behave?

MESSRS EVANS, Jascogne and Gallaher have a lot to answer for, and not all of it bad. The rise of the so-called "new yobocracy" appears to be sparking a backlash. An undeniable shift towards informality is rewriting the social code of what is acceptable behaviour and what is not. Trouble is, no one quite seems to know where the new lines should be drawn - which is why growing numbers are turning to the experts for help.

While the *Loud* lads and their female counterparts revel in behaving badly in public, one might be forgiven for thinking good manners don't matter any more. This is a time of increased informality - a time when it is acceptable to pinch a prince's bum (if you're a Spice Girl) and Buckingham Palace deem it no longer necessary to curtsy to the Queen. But old habits die hard. Many institutions still exist and for young people moving fast up the corporate tree, or those coming to Britain from overseas, the fear of causing offence remains a strong as ever.

"There's a lot of good manners coming back after the yuppie Eighties when no one seemed to care," says Jacqueline Fraser, founder of Manners, a company which runs courses in etiquette and social skills. Like others offering advice in this area, she reports a significant increase in interest among clients - especially younger people working in the City, sales and IT. "People now realise manners do matter and they can be useful weapons to impress a client or boss."

Ms Fraser may be right. Re-

You are invited to dinner by a colleague. Feel out of your social depth? Don't panic, help is at hand. By Meg Carter



Paul Keating gets fresh with The Queen

search published last week in the latest issue of *Nature* claims that good manners make people more prosperous. The study, conducted by Oxford University zoologist Martin Nowak and Karl Sigmund, a mathematician from the University of Vienna, set out to prove meanness and incivility to others lead to an evolutionary dead-end, while kindness and attentiveness to others tend to boost your chances of survival.

This comes as no surprise to Jane Procter, editor of *Tutty*. "Manners provide a framework within which people understand what they should and should not do. Ill-mannered people hide behind etiquette. Some people use 'the right form' to exclude others - which is as rude as the behaviour of the new yobocracy."

John Wheatley, editor of *Debut*, agrees. "People do still care deeply about good manners," he says. "We get over 30 calls a day from people who are petrified about doing the wrong thing. Many of them

are young people who through wealth or rapid promotion are finding themselves invited to posh 'dos' and are afraid of not knowing the right thing to do."

Such as? Causing unintentional offence by failing to answer an invitation correctly by arriving too early or too late, by demonstrating poor table manners, or not following the correct dress code.

"New money", the changing nature of relationships between men and women, the decline of the "traditional" family and rapid technological advances have wrought fundamental changes to the way we communicate and conduct business, John Wheatley explains. Meanwhile, instruction in good manners, once a fundamental part of schooling, is in decline.

"Children are losing social skills as they spend more time in front of the computer or TV," says Cristina Stuart, managing director of presentations consultancy SpeakEasy. "Employers comment that while a graduate's CV looks good, when the actual person walks

through the door, they often lack even the basic social graces."

And young people know it. According to Judith Kark, principal of Lucie Clayton College, the one-time modelling school which now runs courses in business skills and nammying, many are apologetic and ill-equipped. "Modern manners are key modules in all our courses," she explains. "There is a growing demand from business for staff who are well-trained, well-presented and well-mannered." A number of companies are even sending existing staff to Lucie Clayton to brush up social skills. Even so, Ms Kark admits it can be tricky defining what constitutes good manners in the late Nineties.

People should be aware that what is now acceptable behaviour to some is still unacceptable to others. "Manners will never waste away. We're just not conditioned to let that happen," Ms Kark insists. "Besides, good manners are a useful and effective weapon. Just don't tell Gazza or Liam.

HOW WELL-MANNERED ARE YOU?

Q. Which cutlery should you use to eat a salad? a) knife and fork b) fork c) knife.

A. b) fork. Using a knife and fork to eat a salad suggests you harbour sinister suspicions about your host. (Centuries ago, poison was injected into the veins of lettuce - cutting into the leaves was a useful precaution)

Q. How high should you fill your glass with wine?

A. Never more than two thirds full and hold it by the stem.

Q. You are served shellfish and presented with a finger bowl. What should you do?

A. Eat the easy bits first with a knife and fork, then address the trickier parts with implements provided. Use the bowl for "delicate ablutions" and pat your hands dry on the napkin.

Q. You've forgotten to get your spouse flowers or champagne for your anniversary. Should you ask your secretary to get something for you?

A. No. It is bad manners to ask your secretary to do things that are not his or her responsibility.

Q. Should you fire someone before or after lunch?

A. It doesn't matter, but always do it in person and ensure the way in which it is done preserves the greatest dignity for the recipient.

Source: *Debut's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners* by John Morgan (1996)

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Watch out – there's a maverick about

He's got the boys from Blur, he's got Extreme Noise terror, he's even got Fluff. Who else could assemble such a cast? By Anthony Clavane

A three-hour Japanese noise marathon, Punjabi hip-hop, Jamaican reggae, Scottish poet Ivor Cutler, English poet Nigel Blackwell, comedian Jeremy Hardy – “who ought to be running the country” – Laurel and Hardy film music, live screenings of World Cup games, off-beat indie collaborations and a Berlin band “who are completely unknown, even in Berlin”. All this and Alan Freeman too.

It looks like John Peel's Christmases have come at once. Suddenly, there's a minor panic. Where's the tattered *New Musical Express* being closely scrutinised on the pine kitchen table of his thatched Suffolk cottage (his main source of information about the event, despite being its curator) has unaccountably left the popastic legend off the lineup for Meltdown 98. “Does that mean the Freeman B-movie season's not going ahead?” ponders Peel, stroking his greying beard. Of all the knock-backs he has received, Jarvis Cocker returning his calls, Paul Whitehouse being unavailable, Arab Strap being unwilling – this would be the hardest to bear.

If the Freeman B-movie season seems an incongruous choice for an experimental arts-fest – well, that's the point. Approaching 60, although y his own admission “mentally still approaching puberty”, Peel appears to have gone in for a bit of mischief-making, cocking a snook at the retensions of high art, refashioning feldown in his own eclectic image.

It tickles him to think that earnest outh Bank types might accidentally tumble upon a 23-piece Dutch ensemble's tribute to Hollywood's reatest comedy duo, or find themselves stranded at an “undanceable

and unlistenable” indie-thrash gig. “I hope one or two of the arts set walk in by mistake,” he chuckles. “To have some blue-haired lads from Ipswich jumping up and down and bellowing at them is good for them, don't you think? There's a therapy aspect to all this, you know.”

One intriguing double-bill has the sublime Cutler, a devotee of the Noise Abatement Society, paired with blue-haired Ipswich combo Extreme Noise Terror. Of all the directors of this annual, off-the-wall festival, Elvis Costello and Laurie Anderson included, the Radio 1 veteran seems the most suited. Despite failing to bag Pulp and Polly, it's the closest he'll get to a Peelite Manifesto – a kind of “performance arts” version of the legendary Sessions.

When the Peel Sessions started on Radio 1 I wanted them to be more experimental,” he says. “I wanted Cream to come on and do four Shadows numbers. But British bands are more gang-like than American bands, they're much less flexible. I'm always faintly disappointed when people come in to do a session and just do four tracks from their new LP. I like them to come in and say: ‘I've worked out *Tubular Bells* for the ukulele’, anything that's different from what they'd normally do. Some Spice Girls songs even. It was great, for instance, when Chumbawamba did ‘The Birdy Song’.”

Just as ladies of a certain age were supposed to dream about the Queen coming round for tea, I have always fantasised about the man asking me to do a Peel Session. This flight of fancy almost took off last month when I discovered an exciting Post-It message stuck to my desk revealing “John Peel rang – twice”. At last, the call! Despite lacking a demo tape, a band, or even an ap-



John Peel, curator of Meltdown 98, one of the UK's most successful rock festivals

propriate musical instrument, I was determined to grab this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. “Actually, I wanted to talk about Keith Skues,” he apologises, when I zoom round to Peel Acres. “Did you hear him last night?”

Now, old “Cardboard Shoes” Skues is a legend in his own night-time radio slot, his East Anglian show enjoying a cult following among 80-something women with names like Doreen of Long Crendon and Joan of Wivenhoe. John of Stowmarket – who tunes in religiously for a nightly fix of Sedate Seventy Eights, Keyboard Cavalcade and Partridgeesque chat – read an article I wrote on “the voice of Norwich”. But when I confess to being only an occasional listener he mutters “that's a shocking admission,” and

suddenly the prospect of a Peel-approved recording contract recedes into the distance. His enthusiasm for mainstream misfits like Skues and Freeman is genuine. These characters have become alternatives to the “alternative scene”, middle-of-the-road mavericks challenging the trendy orthodoxies of pop culture. “Just so unlike anything else that you can hear. It's a tremendous relief to get something completely different to the Chris Evans clones with their fourth-form, locker-room humour.”

Although hardly qualifying as either avant-garde or cool, the Fluff season (a phone call to the Meltdown office confirms it's still on) will hopefully restore the reputation of one of our most underrated film stars. Of course, the line between genuine affection and tongue-in-cheek par-

ody is often blurred, which could also be said of Half Man Half Biscuit. “Nigel Blackwell, their songwriter, is a poet,” is another Peel declaration which will confound the earnest South Bank types who fail to see the literary merit of songs about Trump-ton, Subbutone and Dickie Davies' Eyes. The Half-Biscuits (or should that be Half-Men?) may well be witty, wacky and wonderfully oblique but they are hardly angst-ridden chroniclers of the modern condition. The group are supporting Damon Albarn and Graham Coxon from Blur, proving you don't have to be an obscure, off-the-wall act to qualify as a Peel favourite. “I have come to love Blur. And the great thing about Damon and Graham is they have never hesitated when we've approached them.”

Who would hesitate to perform at a festival directed by the single most important figure in popular music over the last 30 years?

“Yes, well,” he mumbles, avoiding eye contact, as always never quite sure how to respond to praise. “One or two big names turned me down. It's the function of management at that kind of showbiz level to ensure their artists don't work. The arrogance of these people is breathtaking – their lack of manners and so forth. Whenever you've got to confront the kind of egomania that rampages through the music industry, you just think: ‘A plague on all your houses’. That's why I keep as far away from showbiz as I can.”

Such diffidence does not wash with Downing Street, however, and last week Peel found himself the re-

cipient of an OBE. “It's a strange being on the same honour list as Sir John Birt,” he said, not without some bite in his tone of voice.

He had called his children to ask them whether he should accept it. “Why on earth wouldn't you want to accept it?” they told him. “I did. It's not as if I'm going to be Lord Peel, some kind of political appointment,” he says. “But I really accepted it for my mum and dad – who, if they were still alive, would be proud of me.”

Meltdown 98 begins with Yorp Records Showcase at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 20 June and ends with Damon Albarn, Graham Coxon, The Silver Apples and Jaki Mon Half Biscuit at the Royal Festival Hall on 5 July. (0171 921 092)

Dusty heat and magic

THEATRE
TWELFTH NIGHT
YOUNG VIC
LONDON
SE1

WHEN TIM Supple directed the young Vic company in his superb comedy of Errors, he took the knockabout farce of mistaken identity and filled it with the horror that lurks at the heart of such confusion. With his new production of *Twelfth Night*, he plays a similar hand and wins again.

Not only does he have the same actors, but the production team are back too, notably Adrian Lee, whose wonderfully atmospheric music lights up the text, whipping up bewitching atmospheres out of thin air and turning Shakespeare's *Ilyria* into a place of dusty heat and magic.

There is, however, nothing particularly mysterious about the production's success, which is the result of captivating clarity. Everything has been freshly thought through. Stereotypical characterisations have been banned. As Maria, Sandy McDade ditches the usual bawdy Elizabethan-style Joan Sims: efficient and lightfooted in black shift and slip-pers with her hair scraped back, she's as quick and lean as a question mark. Far from the traditional dandy, Andy Williams's Aguecheek is a broad, battled northern bloke cussing about in a red kilt. Even more importantly, Supple encourages his actors to play everything to and through the audience which means we become party to the emotional

revelations. On the night I saw it, even the rowdy adolescent schoolboys in the audience kept falling silent. Here, the word “ensemble” has true meaning



Sharp work from Tim Supple's cast

Robbie Jack

and the stage relationships have real strength. When Sebastian finally lays eyes on his beloved sister he is initially terrified. You share his terror as the eerie music adds to his belief that she must be a ghost. We watch them staring at each other through a long silence as every emotion of bewilderment, loss and reconciliation is movingly played out before us.

The text is obsessed with jokes about sex and sexuality but Supple's cast never descend to demonstrating this with pelvic thrusts and there's none of the nudge-nudge school of cross-dressing. In a black turban and the glowing dress of a princeling, Thusitha Jayasundera's compelling Viola is rendered truly boyish. Yet, ironically, the one element missing is sex. We never truly feel Orsino's struggle with his infatuation, nor his about-face when the object of his affection is re-

vealed to be a girl. Similarly, dressing Olivia in mourning makes textual sense and ups her status, but it prevents Sarah C Cameron from physically expressing her passion.

Robert Bowman's hilariously contorted Malvolio knows no such constraints. He has all the smug unconsciousness of a particularly odious hotel manager, which makes his fall from grace all the funnier. When he discovers Olivia's supposed love, his deferential physicality explodes because he simply cannot contain his joy. His outburst of ecstasy is the evening's comic highpoint.

From love and loss to malice and revenge, there's so much pain in *Twelfth Night* that it's a miracle that it cuts the mustard as a comedy. But as this marvellous interpretation reveals, it is precisely that pain which underpins the play's comic spirit. In rep (0171-928 6363)

DAVID BENEDICT

A midsummer night's frost

THERE'S one thing about Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on which most people seem to agree. It's a summer piece. The score is full of lush, dreamy sounds, the magic that of short, semi-twilit nights. A few bars, and imagination is already amid warm banks where the wild thyme blows.

But Robert James Carson's Aldeburgh production, with the Britten-Pears School Opera company, takes a different view. The stage is mostly sombre greys and blacks; foliage is bare and skeletal. The effect on the music is striking. Harp, harpsichord and celeste now sound sharp and cold – the aural equivalent of hoar frost and sudden thin drafts. With reduced strings (a necessity in the tiny Jubilee Hall pit), the beautiful open-

OPERA

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
BRITTEN-PEARS
OPERA SCHOOL COMPANY
ALDEBURGH

ing to Act III loses a lot of its hush. It's still beautiful, but the air is definitely chilly. And why not? Oberon has got his way – possession of the “changeling boy” – by means of a cruel trick on his wife, Titania. And in this production we have now seen how coldly cruel he can be, silkily congratulating his familiar, Puck, one minute, then giving him the magical equivalent of a savage beating the next. William Towers' Oberon looks, and sounds the part – all sinister, frosty elegance. Dawn

Hartley's Puck (a virtuoso performance throughout) registers the pain all too believably.

But while the background may be more of *A Winter's Tale* than a *Summer's Dream*, there's still plenty of comedy. There was something strangely touching about Timothy Mirfin's love-scene as Bottom with Heather Buck's Titania in Act II. The hand-on breast gag may be something of a cliché in comic opera, but Mirfin executed it superbly, like a long, slow overarm bowl.

Would Britten have approved? Probably not, but then, by most accounts, Britten could be remarkably prudish. He is said to have been displeased on one occasion by the sight of a couple of married friends holding hands in public. His art, on

the other hand, has a life of its own – a life, which, on occasion, seems to have worried even its composer. The producer is to be congratulated for allowing the work of art to guide him, rather than stories about Britten. After all, if Britten wanted nothing but clean fun, it for maiden aunts to see and hear, why did he choose Shakespeare? Certainly this was a great evening. Credit to conductor Michael Rosewell, and to Britten-Pears School Orchestra for their part in it, and to the lovely girl fairies – there's something like Britten wouldn't have liked. Perhaps an all-boy troupe would have had a purer sound, but in every other respect that's one Aldeburgh production that's well worth challenging.

STEPHEN JOHNSON

Forget the haiku, here's Hegley

COMEDY

JOHN HEGLEY & FRIENDS
THE WEAVER'S ARMS
STOKE NEWINGTON
LONDON N1

COMEDY POETRY – like performance art or avant-garde mime – is one of those art forms designed to send mainstream audiences running for the cover of the nearest bar showing the World Cup.

The fans of John Hegley, however, clearly don't feel that way. Forsaking the joys of France vs South Africa, they thronged the Weavers Arms – the sort of fashionably faded venue where curling posters for John Otway and Abba the Stockbroker hang from the walls.

It was a trendy crowd, and I imagine Granita and other favoured eateries of north London's clobatt-chomping classes might have experienced a relatively quiet Friday

night, though it was anything but quiet at the Weavers. This was no tranquil contemplation of haiku but a full-on rock gig. At one point Hegley was giving it some serious Mick Jagger into the mike-stand while fronting a five-piece band.

However, despite the accompanying drum, bass, guitar, harmonica and sax, Hegley's words still shone through. Done up in a splendidly un-matching outfit of grey jacket, blue

shirt, white trousers and black shoes – a full house of dissonance – he revelled in nonsense verse about subjects as diverse as his glasses and his beloved Luton Town football club: “The Lord was born in a stable because it was full at the inn/Luton are low down in the table because they're unable to win.”

At best, he crafts the most bizarre snippets into sublimely daft, but strangely moving, poems.

One bittersweet meditation on the pleasure and pain of pet owning was worked up from the factoid that armadillos can hold their breath for six minutes.

Despite looking like the bastard son of Elvis Costello and Buddy

Holly, Hegley never allows us to think he was taking the whole rock-star schtick too seriously. After a number about the man scandalously omitted from this World Cup Jimmy Greaves – Hegley pronounced “here's another political one” before adding, with a makerly touch of hothos: “It's about a dog that keeps on farting.”

Hegley's mixture of strong lyrics and loud music worked surprisingly well. It pains me to say it, but all those style supplements were right. Poetry is the new rock'n'roll.

JAMES RAMPTON

This review appeared in later editions of Saturday's paper.

هكذا من الأصل

Don't be afraid of Spoonface

A lone voice heard in a Radio Four play so touched listeners that its owner has been made flesh for TV. By Mike Higgins

Radio Four can't always be as protective of its charges as it would like. Nurtured and given their first homes by TV's poor relation, comedians, dramas and entire formats flee the audio nest for the wide open spaces of Television Centre. Steve Coogan, *Have I Got News For You* and many sitcoms conceal a humble wireless ancestry. Occasionally, however, radio reminds you that it's able to play host to art which no other medium can. The broadcast in January last year of Lee Hall's *Spoonface Steinberg*, to judge by listeners' reaction, was just such an event.

The fictional hour-long monologue of a seven-year-old autistic Jewish girl terminally ill with cancer, *Spoonface* (so-called because of her perfectly round features), provoked the kind of reaction to restore faith among embattled radio schedulers. Three Radio 4 repeats and tens of thousands of cassette sales subsequently made *Spoonface* an obvious candidate for a TV adaptation, but the drama's stream-of-consciousness form and the passionate support of the notoriously possessive Radio 4 audience called for an unusually respectful transfer to the small screen. As Hall has since remarked: "People remember where they were when they first heard *Spoonface*."

Hall's dense, allusive text remains more or less intact in Betsan Morris Evans's version. Voiced once more by the excellent eleven-year-old Becky Simpson (though played on screen by eight-year-old Ella Jones, also remarkable), *Spoonface*'s internal monologue reflects on her condition, life with her separated parents and her imminent death. Tomorrow night's audience will see sequences of domestic life and home movies intercut with montages of memories and scenes closer to portraiture than drama.

The only additional sound to *Spoonface*'s words is the odd incidental effect. Evans has remained faithful to *Spoonface*'s impressionistic meditations - one minute charmingly trivial, the next touchingly honest - by ignoring narrative coherence in favour of tone and texture, a loyalty to the original that producers Suzan Harris and Simon Curtis demanded. "I felt that you couldn't do a traditional screenplay and you should try and keep as close as possible to the simplicity of it," says Curtis. "The inner world is so much more affecting than a naturalistic conventional film about a child in that condition."

The first problem came in easing



Spoonface's reflections are accompanied by scenes of domestic life. Above, Ella Jones as *Spoonface* with Helen McCrory and Mark Strong. Joss Barratt

Spoonface Steinberg from the understandably tight grasp of BBC Radio. The last of a quartet of Hall plays (the first, *I Love U Jimmy Spud*, picked up a clutch of awards in 1996) in which children make lyrical sense of the ugly world around them, *Spoonface*, the TV adaptation, was originally to have been helmed by its radio director Kate Rowland. "I think [she] felt it had been a bit media BBC initiative [by which BBC Radio and Television share resources] and that, if so, why shouldn't she be allowed to do the visual production," remembers Evans.

Rowland's minimal experience behind the camera couldn't match her experience as a radio director, however, and Evans, who had worked on Jane Horrocks' BAFTA-nominated monologue *Suffer The Little Children*, was drafted in. "It's not that the drama department wanted to take it away from radio - they wanted to add something to it," says

Evans, who will admit that she felt nervous at the prospect of tinkering with what had already become a Radio "phenomenon". What has been altered Evans justifies in the name of accessibility and the limitations of television. The young girl's obsession with doomed female opera characters is less apparent than on the radio and her thoughts on the Holocaust have been excised entirely. Evans felt in particular that illustrating the latter effectively without trivializing the issues was beyond the scope of the TV adaptation.

In just about every other respect, though, the images serve Hall's words. "There was a point where we still had 15 seconds of monologue," remembers Evans, "so we had to shoot more images - it was a very strange way of working." Straddling television and radio involved experimenting with two distinct sets of rules, however. If you treat the text too deferentially, the whole exer-

cise of adaptation becomes redundant, but if you clutter the screen the ear is constantly trying to catch up with the eye.

While the television version is sometimes guilty of swamping *Spoonface*'s monologue in this way, Evans insists that what we see carefully subordinates itself to what we hear at crucial points: "There's a scene in particular where *Spoonface* and her mother are walking down a corridor and the camera simply watches them walk away while the monologue gives us a summary of the facts so far - *Spoonface*'s realization that she's going to die, and that her parents have split up."

"The temptation with so much freedom is to get all the kit out of the van and set up, say, a big tracking shot," she adds. "So they [the images] had to be interesting and add to the monologue without distracting from it."

Yet, there was call for imagination,

too, particularly in avoiding an all too literal interpretation of Hall's text. Like many autistic children, *Spoonface* reveals a savant ability with arithmetic. "So we see her buttoning and unbuttoning her coat, counting the buttons," explains Evans.

That this display of numeracy frustrates the attempts of *Spoonface*'s mother to leave the house with her daughter isn't a coincidence, however. "The other dimension was that it must be so bloody irritating to have a child like that."

Other than flashes of poetic eloquence ("Death is even less than nothing," she opines at one point), *Spoonface*'s radio monologue was as frank and as moving as you might expect the solipsistic deliberations of a terminally ill seven-year-old to be. Evans, though, was keen to broaden the perspective of the piece (she has a feature film on current release, *Dad Savage*): the monologue retains its innocence, impres-

sively read by Becky Simpson, but the images are more knowing, especially in their depiction of the fractious relationship between *Spoonface*'s parents (nicely reserved performances from Helen McCrory and Mark Strong). *Spoonface*, while loved, hardly approaches her death cocooned. Even when she visits the hospital, the only faces we see are hers, her parents Mrs Spud the cleaner, but her mother's taste for vodka and her father's affairs infect the screen much as they do *Spoonface*'s monologue.

Spoonface Steinberg easily escapes the "issue drama" label, but its scheduling belies this fact. Unsuitable for the BBC's Performance strand, it is being broadcast as part of Children's Health Week. As Evans claims: "*Spoonface* isn't really about cancer - it's about why you shouldn't be afraid of dying." *Spoonface Steinberg* will be broadcast on BBC2 at 9.50pm, tomorrow

SEEN AND HEARD

WHAT THE media said about the radio production:

"A truck driver confessed that the dramatic monologue *Spoonface Steinberg*, read by 11-year-old Becky Simpson, had reduced him to tears. Hospices and hospitals said it would be useful in their work with the sick and dying and their families. Learning action centres and schools were also fulsome in their praise. *Spoonface* finds strength in the singing of Maria Callas and teachings from the Kaddish. Hall avoids sentimentality by making *Spoonface* funny and brave. She discovers meaning in her suffering."

Digby Hildreth, Sunday Times

"In response to unprecedented audience reaction, Lee Hall's *Spoonface Steinberg* (R4) had its second airing within a month. Lee Hall spoke on *Kaleidoscope* (R4) about writing this monologue: he did it in a couple of days, just letting it pour unchecked."

"The result was astonishing: intensely moving but somehow bearable, perhaps because the little girl spoke with an innate calm wisdom which rang true as a tuning fork. After hearing the play, an old lady phoned the producer, Kate Rowland, and thanked her for allaying her own fear of death."

Sue Gaisford, Independent on Sunday

"After Monday's *Spoonface Steinberg*, 150 people telephoned the BBC to thank them for the play. On Friday's *Feedback* Chris Dunkley reported 108 calls and Chris Searle said it had brought the biggest ever response on the *Pick of the Week* hotline. *Spoonface*, eyeing her world with a child's cold curiosity, hot apprehension and occasional misapprehension, finds she can pass beyond it all. She does it through music. This writer believes in music's power to transform."

Gillian Reynolds, Daily Telegraph

The icon who's just an old-fashioned girl

WHAT ARE these American publicists like? How far will they go to promote their latest identikit 90s New Woman, whose quirky-but-cute features have been plastered all over the billboards of central London? Will these cultural imperialists stop at nothing in their sinister bid to foist yet another alien "style icon" on Britain's impressionable twenty- and thirty-somethings?

Only two episodes in and British columnists are already penning their why-oh-why pieces, the sub-editors spitting out their venomous headlines and feminists accusing the eponymous heroine of betraying The Cause. "Why I hate Ally," thundered the London *Evening Standard*. "Is this mini-skirted neurotic really a role model for the 90s?" exploded the *Daily Mail*. "So OK, I enjoyed it," whispered the *Express*. "But I'm certainly not going to admit it in public."

"Not a crooked tooth in sight," huffed the chap from *Now* magazine, as a clip from the second episode was shown at the Channel 4 press conference last week. "She's too cutesy and plastic," mumbled his elderly friend as they waited for the arrival of the actress who plays McBeal, Calista Flockhart. "Too American you mean," chips in a third, who rambles on about nose jobs, hair-flicks and other irritating habits. Given that they're not single, successful, sharp-suited career women aged between 25 and 34, their reaction is unsurprising.

But never mind the demographic, the instinct to resist the hype. Even the star's liquid refreshment, strategically laced on the front table, is labelled Ally McBeal Natural Mineral Water. When Calista Flockhart finally appeared,

Some say 'Ally McBeal' tells us something about modern life. Others see it as mere hype. By Anthony Clavane



Calista Flockhart, the star of *Ally McBeal*

though, it was immediately apparent that she is no precious, manufactured star but a shy, self-effacing, intelligent actress. Dressed down in grey, shapeless cardigan and baggy jeans in place of the smart lilac jacket and micro-skirt, the reluctant Voice of a Generation swiftly disarmed her critics with her soft-spoken irony and hesitant humour.

The *News of the World* journalist, a woman, got to the point

and asked her about her fantasies; her character's dreams of copulating in a giant coffee cup and obtaining bigger breasts. "Well, I've mutilated quite a few people," she said. "Chopped off arms and legs and killed people in my fantasies. I've cut off fingers and cut out a lot of tongues." Not all that cute and fluffy, then.

When the New Mary Tyler Moore confessed to "not being familiar" with the legendary show, there were gasps; when she claimed never to have seen *thirtysomething* there were groans of disbelief. It got worse. Calista Flockhart is her real name - not, as the *Standard* alleged, a committee-designed one. She hates being viewed as a role model, and Ms McBeal gets on her nerves too - "I vacillate between hating her and liking her." At least the backlash is "fun" and makes people think, she said.

So she's not a market-tested automaton. But what about the age thing? The publicists are marketing the hapless heroine as a typical twentysomething, yet Flockhart has been outed by the American press as an alleged 33-year-old. For the first time, she became defensive. "Yes, I'm coy about how old I am. There's something about it that takes away my privacy. It's like asking how much do I weigh. I'm old-fashioned, maybe."

As the journalists crossed out "post-feminist" and scribbled in "pre-feminist", she sighed. "I'm very low-key and boring," she insisted. "I hang out with my dog. We sort of pal around. I'm a bit of a loner, I think." She took a sip from her mineral water. It turned out not to be Ally McBeal Mineral Water but Abbey Well. So much for the hype.

'Ally McBeal', Channel 4, Wednesdays, 10pm

Where Seinfeld's a turkey

'South Park' carries its own health warning: 'Not to be viewed by anyone.' By Jasper Rees

FOR THE past year, American households have reverberated to the following dialogue: "Dad, can I watch *South Park* tonight?" "Over my dead body, kid." "But Dad, it's a cartoon." "I know that, kid. But it's not a cartoon for kids. It's a cartoon about kids. Kids ain't posed to watch it."

South Park, which is coming to Channel 4 next month, is set among the snowy peaks of rural Colorado, the world capital of UFO sightings. The grotesque nine-year-olds, muffled in parkas and bobble hats, waiting at the bus stop in the first episode could be mistaken for aliens themselves. They'd be of the furry, malevolent half-pint gremlin variety except that they are no more than visitations from your own infantile psyche.

There's Cartman, the fat, bawdy Cheesy Puff-addict who is troubled by fiery flatulence when aliens plant an anal probe inside him. Stan is the sporty one who vomits green bile every time his classroom sweetheart talks to him. Kyle is a bright, Jewish neurotic who has an imaginary friend called Christmas Po. And Kenny, the mumbly runt of the group who dies a horrible death in every episode.

If the child is the father to the man, then check out *South Park*'s adults. The kids' disturbed teacher, Mr Garrison, keeps order through his glove puppet, Mr Hat. Stan's uncle is a gun fanatic, whose Viet-vet sidekick speaks through a voicebox. Cartman's mom is alleged by his friends to pose for *Crack Whore* magazine.

South Park was launched in the United States last August. It's not the first animated entertainment to look beyond the world of adults in search of human foibles. In their different ways, *Beavis and Butt-head*, *The Simpsons* and *King of the*



Rogues' gallery: a cartoon about kids but not for kids

Hill have already acknowledged that adolescence is a key breeding ground for dysfunction, neurosis and sociopathic tendencies. But none is so uncompromisingly frank that the junior generation portrayed is actually discouraged from watching. *South Park* comes with a health warning: "The following program contains coarse language and, due to its content, should not be viewed by anyone."

The makers of *South Park* are a couple of guys in their late 20s from Colorado who met at university in Boulder in the early 1990s. Trey Parker, who flunked out of his degree, is the creative genius with the straw-bale hair; Matt Stone is the corkscrew-curved one in specs who knows how to run the ship. They hit it off, according to Parker, because "we were the only ones who didn't want to make black-and-white films about lesbians". When they met, Parker was making a film

called *Giant Beaver of Southern Sri Lanka*. For \$125,000 he then made *Cannibal: The Musical*, on the back of which they moved to LA in 1995.

David Zucker, one of the Zucker Brothers who made the *Airplane!* and *Naked Gun* series, invited Parker to direct a spoof industry film, starring Demi Moore and Messrs Spielberg and Stallone, which was screened at a conference. Then a Fox executive saw an animated short of theirs, in which a snowman terrorises some Colorado kids, and commissioned a short video. He distributed *The Spirit of Christmas*, in which Santa and Jesus engage in a bout of kung fu, to industry friends as a seasonal greeting. Comedy Central won the bidding to make the series of the Christmas card. According to Parker, they chose the channel because "when we asked, 'How do you feel about talking poo?' they said, 'Love it!'"

On the back of the first series, they have sold more than \$30m worth of merchandise. Its ads sell for six times the network's standard prime-time rate. Fans can download it on the Internet, where the stop-go animation doesn't lose much in translation, and where one website had millions of hits.

What is the secret of its success? The writing is witty and succinct, the plotlines satirical and the characters develop but there's more to it than that. According to Frank Rich of the *New York Times*, the kids in *South Park* are "post-ideological", which may be just a polite term for a political incorrectness that America has embraced in gleeful relief.

"There's this whole thing out there about how kids are so innocent and pure," says Parker. "That's bullshit, man. Kids are malicious. They totally jump on any handwagon and rip off the weak guy at any chance. They say whatever bad word they can think of. They are

total bastards, but for some reason everyone has kids and forgets about what they were like when they were kids."

For several years now, most American sitcoms have been vanity packages for stars to play wittier versions of themselves: in *Roseanne*, *Seinfeld*, *Cybill* and *Ellen*, they even got to keep their own names. Cartoon characters don't have egos. *Seinfeld* may be the world's most popular show, but both *King of the Hill* and *South Park* have thumbed their noses at it. Boomhauer, Hank Hill's drinking buddy who spouts level streams of southern semi-consciousness, calls it "the show 'bout nuthin'".

Still, *South Park*'s creators got a call from Jerry Seinfeld touting his vocal services. Chief, *South Park*'s priapic token black, is voiced by Isaac Hayes, and Sparky, Stan's gay dog, by George Clooney. Jay Leno has done a cameo. Tiger Woods says he wants to. They offered Seinfeld the part of Turkey No 2 in the Christmas special.

Partly because they worry that they've not seen their fair share of the merchandising profits, Parker and Stone have moved into cinema. They have been engaged to write a prequel to *Dumb and Dumber*, and Parker has directed *Orgazmo*, a comedy set in the world of porn, in which he plays a Mormon stud and Stone a porn stagehand and photographer.

The worry for fans is that with all these distractions *South Park* will sell out. The second series started in the United States last month, although its makers went into it aware of the lure of easy formulae. "We would view success," says Stone, "as finally getting to the point where we get cancelled because no one gets it."

'South Park' begins on Channel 4 on 10 July

NETWORK

Price wars have cut the cost of a 'basic PC' to less than £1,000. But basic does not always mean bargain. By Stephen Pritchard

Pile 'em deep, sell 'em cheap

Buy a PC, any PC, and a faster, cheaper one will be on the shelves within months. Competition, better production processes and cheaper, faster components mean that computers become less expensive year by year.

But, recently, there has been a dramatic shift in PC prices, especially from the big names. A well-specified, branded PC now costs less than last year's anonymous clone.

The price of a reasonable multimedia PC is now below the magic £1,000 barrier. Leaf through the computer magazines and you'll find adverts for computers which are - just - under £500. This is not top-of-the-range hardware: a high-specification computer based around Intel's latest 350 or 400MHz Pentium II chips still costs closer to £2,000. Even so, today's entry-level PC is a capable enough machine that should cope perfectly well with programs such as Microsoft Office, or using the Internet. Even tasks like desktop publishing, once the preserve of "high-end" systems, are feasible on a low-cost computer.

Price cuts in the computer business tend to follow a pattern. A new computer, usually based around a new chip, comes out. Its high price means it appeals mostly to professionals - in areas like multimedia production or software development - and enthusiasts. Prices then drop so the machine becomes mainstream and, in as little as 18 months, it is an entry-level system.

A computer offered at a very keen price may be an obsolete model that has not sold well, and which manufacturers need to clear from their warehouses. In general, though, retail prices for PCs are being driven down by three factors: cheaper components, competition between manufacturers and a new sort of computer - the "Basic PC".

As a result of the price-cutting, the computer industry is now facing a squeeze: IDC, an industry analyst, predicts computer sales in Europe will grow by 14 per cent - the same figure as last year - but revenues will fall from 8.5 per cent to 4.1 per cent.

Stiff competition is forcing down prices, and the consequences are already making themselves felt. The US maker AST has pulled out of the desktop computer market; the Dutch firm Tulp has filed for protection against its creditors; Germany's Siemens Nixdorf has sold its manufacturing plant to Acer.

Lower component prices help manufacturers to keep costs down, but the economies of scale favour the global brands. Cheaper chips, especially microprocessors, cheaper memory and larger, cheaper hard drives account for part of the price cuts. The rest, though, is a squeeze on computer makers' margins and this could cause more casualties over the next few months.

"The PC business is moving more and more towards volume and the big vendors have been very aggressive on price," says Thomas Reuter, PC analyst with DataQuest.



Five systems for around £1,000

COMPAQ PRESARIO 2254

£899 inc VAT
A basic model from one of the biggest names. It comes with a 56K modem, 32Mb hard disk and 32Mb RAM. It has a full multimedia kit, including a 32-speed CD-ROM drive, a 3D graphics card and speakers. To keep costs down, the Presario uses a 233MHz AMD K6 chip instead of an Intel processor, and memory expansion is limited, but the price is keen.

DAN TECHNOLOGY

XPLORA II Plus
£1,069 inc VAT
This is not Dan's entry level machine, but its entry-level Pentium II system. It has a 266MHz chip with 512K cash, 32Mb RAM, a 4GB hard disk, modem, speakers and CD-ROM drive, plenty of expansion and a 15in monitor. In all, a good value, powerful system. Dan's cheapest PC is an AMD-based 233MHz machine, at £597 inc VAT.

GATEWAY G6 233

£938.82 inc VAT
Gateway's basic box uses a 233MHz Pentium II chip, with 32Mb RAM, 2Gb hard disk, 32-speed CD-ROM drive and a 15in monitor. There are also decent sound and graphics cards, and 56K modem. The next model up, the G6 266, could be better value: it costs £1,138 but includes a colour inkjet printer alongside the faster chip and bigger drive.

HEWLETT PACKARD

ERIO 8314
£821 inc VAT
HP is currently selling this Intel Celeron-based PC at a bundle price including a monitor. The approach is no thrills, but the price is low. The Celeron chip runs at 266MHz, the monitor is 15in, there is a 2Gb hard disk and 32Mb RAM. The PC comes with PC Doctor and McAfee Anti-Virus, but no business applications on this model. The computer has basic 2Mb graphics and sound cards but no CD-ROM drive.

APPLE IMAC

Expected price around £999
Apple is back in the consumer market with a vengeance. The iMac is an all-in-one design - something Apple has tried before - but this time the case is translucent. Inside, there is a 15in monitor, a fast modem, 32Mb RAM, a 4Gb hard disk and a 233MHz G3 processor as well as built-in ethernet connection. Oddly, it has no floppy drive. The machine will be available this autumn, and Mac fans should find the wait worthwhile.

The weapon in the large manufacturers' armouries is the basic PC. This is a no-frills computer with a low price, but with the security of buying from a well-known company. The basic PC lets customers buy a branded PC at clone prices, albeit with compromises.

Basic PCs use cheaper parts, especially microprocessors. They are built either around older chips, or Intel's new, low-cost Celeron processors. Celeron chips are not as powerful as a Pentium II, but they are cheaper. A 266MHz Celeron, for example, is slightly slower than a 233MHz Pentium II. There are other compromises: a basic PC will have its sound card, and maybe its video card, on the motherboard. This makes upgrading harder. Not everyone believes the basic PC is a good

choice. Chris Bakolas, technical director of Dan Technology, says that price wars harm the industry and cheap machines do buyers few favours. "Requirements for computers are being raised," he says. "Software becomes bigger, better and more demanding. And the limitations which come with [basic PC] systems are going to affect home users more than businesses."

Manufacturers say that the demand for basic PCs is coming from large businesses, but low advertised prices are having the inevitable effect of forcing down costs in the home and small office business, too. Buyers of basic PCs are concentrated in two categories: businesses, which buy them in volume for undemanding tasks such as word-processing, and home or SoHo

(small office/home office) users who are testing the PC waters and want to keep to a tight budget.

"Price cuts have been most aggressive in the small-to-medium enterprise market," explains Steve Torbe, desktop marketing manager at Compaq. "A lot of consumers are buying a PC that, ideally, they may want to upgrade, so they buy a high-spec unit. A business PC is not always as feature packed."

From this week, Compaq will sell its lowest-price Desktop PC for £705, exclusive of a monitor and VAT. With a 266MHz Pentium II and 32Mb of memory, it is a capable machine. Hewlett Packard believes its prices will start in the same range. "The current price will fluctuate, but a price of between £700 and £800 will stay," predicts Dave Thompson,

HP's UK marketing manager.

HP's lower pricing, Thompson says, is a result of lower component prices but also a more efficient supply chain. Larger companies have been watching and learning from the activities of the mail order vendors such as Gateway and, especially, Dell. "The direct manufacturers don't buy [components] any cheaper than we do," Thompson says. "If you can take costs out of the supply chain, you can achieve the same prices as direct vendors."

Whether price cuts are good for the industry and for consumers, remains to be seen. Overall, home PC prices have not fallen as fast: the average home user still spends around £1,500 on a computer, and often buys it through a store, where retailers' margins add to costs.

Then, only one in four households has a computer so there is room for growth. Not everyone needs an ultra-fast machine with added software and multimedia or game-playing accessories.

The basic PC has its limitations. Businesses budget to replace their computers every two or three years. So it matters less if the machine will not run newer versions of software. A home user planning to keep a computer for, say, five years, might be ill-advised to buy a basic PC.

Ultimately, price cuts may mean fewer computer manufacturers than there are now. And smaller firms will find it hard to compete with the marketing and buying might of the global computer companies. So it may be a case of less cost now, less choice later.

FEEDBACK

JOHN SECKER (Feedback, 2 June) is incorrect in stating that spam is not a problem for end-users. I use a relatively slow dial-up connection to the Internet, and often find that a large percentage of my e-mail (up to 50 per cent by size) is spam.

Frankly, the sentiment that I shouldn't object to someone forcing me to download an e-mail message which contains nothing whatsoever of interest and which I have given no sign of wanting staggers me. I routinely spend a large amount of time tracing the source of the spam and complaining to the relevant people - not because I want to "a cause to fight", but because I want a solution. Not only that, but I also object to the fact that a large

proportion of my Internet subscription fee is also wasted because of it. It is an undeniable fact that spam costs everybody involved real money, and that can't be good for the future of the Internet. **MATTHEW GARRETT** cavan@enterprise.net

JOHN SECKER asserts that those of us who are suffering severe spam problems are making a fuss about nothing. Just because he doesn't mind the occasional personal spam doesn't mean this isn't a genuine problem for others.

Those who suffer most are small businesses and organisations. One of my clients is a small media production company with around a dozen employees.

Everyone has their own e-mail address, with access to the Internet via a dial-up gateway. Freelancers and clients using the facilities are also given e-mail addresses while they are working there. The result is that there are about 60 or 70 addresses at the company's domain, and each one of these is spammed every day. At the last count, the volume of spam was approximately 800 messages per business day coming into the office.

Relax and ignore it, eh?

KEITH JOHNSON keith@centrik.demon.co.uk

IT WAS entertaining to read Mark Vernon's report ("Caught in a Net of Corruption?", 2 June) regarding the Which? Online annual Internet survey. Although the article eventually gave a balanced view of the report's findings, the introduction and initial comments were so inflammatory and sensationalist as to stir up as much negative reaction to the Internet as the Which? Online report is said to have found amongst interviewees.

Clearly, Mr Vernon is well acquainted with Darrell Huff's excellent book *How to Lie with Statistics* when he says that "nearly half of the

2,124 people confidentially interviewed... believe the risk of fraud is high" and "some in three even see the Internet as a threat to national security".

Well, pardon me for stating the obvious, but surely that also means more than half the interviewees believe the risk of fraud is not high. And if one in three sees the Net as a risk to national security, then two out of three don't.

Come, come, we all know that you're in the business of selling newspapers, and that there's nothing like a good survey to generate the raw material for you to create a ripping yarn, but does it have to be done in such a "shock horror" manner?

Remember, it's not only the "Internet service providers and content providers... that have an enormous responsibility [for] guiding the consumer and showing them the benefits of the Internet"-national newspapers also share in that responsibility. **PETER MILLARD** peterm@slingshot.co.uk

Correspondence should be e-mailed to network@independent.co.uk or posted to Feedback, Network, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

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Danny Kelly: 'I simply love the idea that the Internet could come out of a toaster in a couple of years'

Neville Elder

The more 'Star Trek' it is, the happier I am

MY TECHNOLOGY

Danny Kelly made newsprint dance as editor of 'Q' and 'NME'. Now he's stepped into the ether to see if he can do the same thing with the Net

FOOTBALL365 is not just a Web site. We deliver an all-singing, all-dancing, free product. It's amazing.

I have had a long career in journalism, from British Magazine Editor of the Year to Editor of Q and NME. An emperor of modern publishing. And I am one of three who set up Direct Network Publishing for the sole purpose of providing new, original and specially tailored content for the Internet.

This is the very first company, apart from the bedroom Web site makers, to do this. Cricket365 is going online, and over the next two weeks, music and money sites will be launched.

I am in charge of editorial policies and direction. As the publishing director, I set up the team and try and get as involved as possible to ensure top-class journalism that is funny, informed and opinionated. With the Internet, up to now, a lot could have just been what was available in print smeared on to the Net. It is not enough to put existing magazines or papers on the Net. Visually at least, it is important to realise the difference. We thought of the first generation who had grown up comfortable with the Internet

and we created the site with them in mind.

The Internet brings its own problems, but these are outweighed by advantages, touch wood. The people we looked to to help us on the technical side were young, on the cutting edge. Denovo and IMN have reputations as technological solution companies. But mostly I felt right because they are groovy blokes (and girls).

Our innovations are threefold. With our news gallery, instead of just conventional PR feeds, we also use intelligent agents to go out into the world and gather football news. This ensures a degree of autonomy.

We have also established a system which allows us to turn over thousands of words every day without any of us knowing HTML. The publishing system we have developed means that you can write on the word processor or whatever and it is put into Internet language don-

ble-quick. The most important content element is interactive. We have thousands of reader contributions. And then there is our extraordinary coverage of the World Cup; the history of the World Cup; the nations involved; the different group players; the picture galleries that are changed daily; the discussion groups, columnists, diaries... it really is a huge undertaking.

This much quality content entirely for the Internet is fairly unique. So far the site has been very successful with both advertisers and users. There are other marvellous sites which have done similar things, but these tend to be focused on art or science. It's not a competition, we could all happily co-exist. After all, that is the ether that is the Internet.

We are looking at all times to develop the brand without losing the fact that we are an independent publishing company. It is very difficult for a new com-

pany to establish itself. But with five people working on design, we are determined to do it properly. Not half-arsed.

I didn't know a thing about the Internet before. When I was first shown the Net, I laughed, thinking it was like CB radio for the Nineties. Now I realise it is the greatest storage and retrieval system.

I became aware of how it has changed the way of communication. So, when asked to get involved, I jumped at the idea. At the very least, in the next couple of years other media will be converging towards somewhere between digital and magazine, so why not be ahead of the game?

The Internet is more inflexible at this stage than a magazine. It takes longer, which is bizarre considering that it is electronic. And how publishers deal with the avalanche of material on the Internet determines whether they succeed

or fail. There are no more problems than you would expect. But I would be a liar if I said it was plain sailing. Each new question about the technology takes two more solutions to answer. It's an effort of the mind to continue. It's a commitment that is easy to give up on. The Internet is a hydra of problems, and you have to keep lopping off the heads.

I love technology. But, unlike your typical man, I don't know anything about it. I simply love the idea that the Internet could come out of a toaster in a couple of years. The more Star Trek it is, the happier I am.

Football365: <http://www.football365.com>
Danny Kelly was talking to Jennifer Rodger

Big Brother really is watching you



EVA PASCOE

It won't be long before our every move will be monitored by security cameras

A RECENT shopping trip to the hi-tech mecca that is London's Tottenham Court Road made me feel like a movie star from the black-and-white era. Not because I became colour blind after exposure to the Blade Runner-inspired neon so beloved of merchants, but because of the amount of closed-circuit TV cameras proudly deployed by the cutting-edge techno retailers.

In the space of a mile I got walk-on parts in at least 15 movies shot by shop-window CCTV. The gimmick works. I have witnessed a number of CCTV junkies pretending to look at the latest flat-panel monitor while in fact combing their hair and grinning to the camera. Some retailers have gone as far as installing a Webcam to cut costs.

Walking through town later that day, I counted no less than 126 locations with CCTV and those are only the ones I was aware of, as there are plenty of hidden cameras. Unfortunately, most of those were less amusing, as they were installed in shops, underground stations or public squares, where the output was not displayed for me to marvel at but secretly monitored by hidden control room operators.

Many UK towns and cities spend as much as £1m of taxpayers' money on these things, but do they help prevent crime? According to research by Dr Clive Norris, of Hull University, the cameras are watching the wrong people in the wrong places. He has found that most of the CCTV cameras monitor young males, with a particular propensity for zooming in on black teenagers, and that arrests made as a result of CCTV monitoring were few.

Dr Norris's research involved 582 hours of taping, only 12 arrests were made, and all were white males in their mid-twenties.

Further study from the Scottish Centre for Criminology found that virtually all claims of crime prevention due to the deployment of CCTV are false. Crimes of

violent grant claim but might have come about after years of savings.

Or imagine parents being denied Child Benefit when CCTV footage obtained from Disneyland provided damning evidence that they spent hundreds of pounds riding Thunder Mountain and buying Mickey Mouse ears. Such automated blocking responses are likely to happen very soon. Since there are no laws to protect our visual data from misuse, the only way out would be a frequent trip to your local plastic surgeon.

If you have crossed Leicester Square recently, you may have found yourself photographed by Capital Radio's Webcam (<http://www.capitalfm.co.uk/street/>). And if you were accompanied by, say, a person to whom you were not married, the visual evidence could be used in future divorce proceedings. Capital Radio does not appear on the list of licensees of CCTV, and therefore the data captured by its Webcam is not subject to the Data Protection Act. A licensed CCTV system must be signposted, with its purpose and the owner of the camera stated, to ensure that you will not end up in a broadcast on Cops TV Live from Leicester Square.

Of course, there are great applications for Webcams; perhaps in the kitchen of your favourite Indian, to monitor the lethal levels of monosodium glutamate, in Chris Evans's bedroom or in the modern rooms of your Internet provider (to verify the disputed ratio of number of modems per 1,000 users).

But before we spend even more money on technology that is, at best, useless as crime prevention and, at worst, misused as a police cost-cutting measure, we should think long and hard about the possible Big Brother implications of letting technology run ahead of the law. In the meantime, send me your thoughts on visual data protection.

eva@never.com

Intel faces anti-trust action

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

IN WASHINGTON last week, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) went ahead with its threat to bring an anti-trust case against Intel, charging it with illegal business practices and abusing its monopoly power. William Baer, the director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition, said Intel, which controls 80-90 per cent of the microprocessor market, had used its dominant market position to force companies to give up intellectual property rights or risk being denied essential information about Intel chips. Withholding key information, he said, had stifled competition and impeded innovation.

"The case seeks to prevent Intel from repeating this conduct," Baer said. "In at least three cases against three major customers (DEC, Intergraph and Compaq), Intel used its position to cut off customers who had asserted their own patent rights with respect to microprocessors and technologies that rivaled Intel's technology."

Intel said the FTC's case was "based on a mistaken interpretation of the law and the facts", that it would be "unable to show harm to competition" and that it was within its rights to use its intellectual property to protect the profitability of its core business.

Before the case is heard the complaint must go to an FTC administrative law judge for trial, after which the losing side will be able to appeal.

THE US government will transfer control of Internet domain names to a new, non-

profit organisation, but the process, set to begin in October, will take two years. Details of how the organisation will be established are being left to the industry groups, businesses and international bodies involved.

The new organisation will have the authority to establish a worldwide network of registrars, each of whom will be able to sell new top-level domain names such as .arts, .firm, .info, .nom, .rec, .shop and .web, and provide consumers with other Internet-related services.

Ken Stubbs, chairman of the Internet Council of Registrars, said: "The US government policy should allow market forces to begin exerting themselves for the first time in the domain name space. Providing more choices in domain names will ensure continued growth of the Internet as an international resource for commerce and communications."

AOL PAID \$287m (£173m) cash last week in a deal eventually worth up to \$400m for the Israeli technology company Mirabilis and its ICQ chat software. ICQ, with 13 million users, is the most widely used chat software on the Internet.

Like AOL's Instant Messenger service, it allows immediate contact and discussion between users who are logged on to the Net regardless of whether they have an e-mail program active.

However, typical ICQ users - young and Net literate - are sceptical of the takeover, worrying that the free service will lose its identity and appeal if it is subsumed into AOL's family-oriented, advertising-rich environment.

Yossi Vardi, chairman of Mirabilis, said that he expected the service to continue to be free. However, he also said that "reasonably placed" banner advertisements were likely.

THE ONLINE bookseller Amazon.com expanded its retail business last week by branching out into the growing market of music sales over the Internet. Amazon.com's music site will be accessible from the company's main Web page. CDs will be offered at discounts of 10-40 per cent.

Sales of recorded music over the Internet are projected to rise from \$300m this year to \$2.5bn in 2002. Amazon.com, which had sales of \$87m in its most recent quarter, is moving to ensure that it becomes a major player along with CDNow and Music Boulevard.

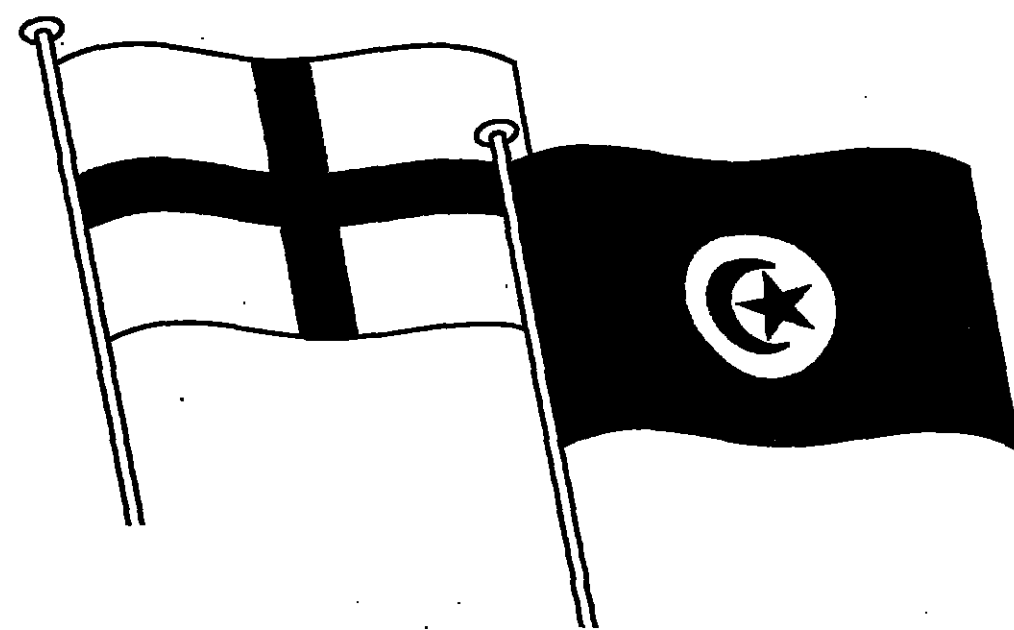
THE YAHOO! Web site attracted almost 8 million more visitors than its nearest competitors last month, according to a report from Relevant Knowledge. The report calculated that 57 million people in the US used the Web in May,

with 30.6 million accessing Yahoo! services, 23.6 million AOL and 18.8 million Netscape.

Aiming to maintain its position as market leader in the Web portal sector, the company last week signed a pact for an undisclosed amount with Compaq so that users of Compaq's new Internet PC will have Yahoo! as their primary gateway to the Net. In a separate deal, worth \$49m in stock, Yahoo! signed a definitive agreement to purchase the electronic commerce software company Viaweb in preparation for expanding its Web offerings to include a site providing clients design, hosting and set-up services for online stores.

INKTOMI, the Internet search and software company, made its debut on Wall Street last week and doubled its initial share price on its first day of trading. The Californian company, whose technology powers many leading Internet directories, including Yahoo!, HotBot and Cnet's Snap, went public at \$18 a share and closed at \$36 on the Nasdaq market. With 2 million shares floated, the offering generated almost \$36m.

The company, whose name comes from a Lakota Indian word for wit and cunning, has an agreement to power an upcoming search service for Microsoft's Start portal site and works with several international Internet providers. It also makes network caching software, used by AOL and other online services to reduce Internet bottlenecks.



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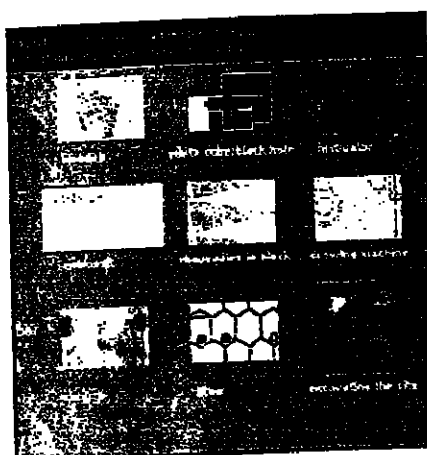
WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

inIVA Online
<http://www.iniva.org>
A FERTILE mix of traditional and multimedia work is presented here by the Institute of International Visual Arts, which promotes artists from diverse cultural backgrounds worldwide.

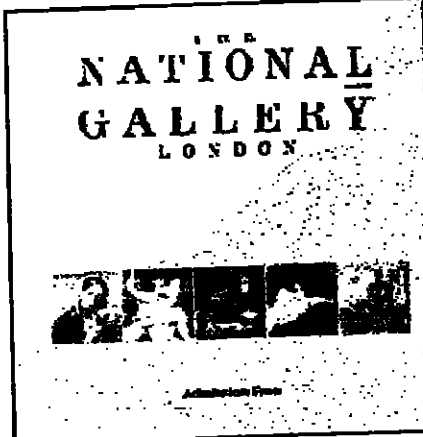
The new online portfolio was launched earlier this month and covers the full range of the group's activities. The more Web-specific items include Simon Tegala's "Anabiosis", in which the artist's fluctuating heart rate over a two week period is presented in graphic form along with audio heartbeat and accompanying text.

More fun to be had, though, in Joy Gregory's exploration of what it means to be blonde, which differentiates Californian, Swedish and Bondi Beach subtypes, and offers a gallery of flaxen-haired icons ranging from Barbara Stanwyck all the way to Wesley Snipes in drag.



The National Gallery
<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>
MEANWHILE, from its base in Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery's restrained but fluently designed site displays selected highlights from each of the four wings of the building.

Images from Van Eyck to Van Gogh are accompanied by useful, concise introductory blurbs, and a section on "puzzle paintings" discusses Manet, Rubens and others. Entertainments include the chance to mix-and-match the top



and bottom halves of figures from famous works. The legs of a woman bathing as painted by Rembrandt can be endowed with the head and torso of Gainsborough's *Mrs Andrews*, and the resulting mutants might be considered a form of digital art themselves.

Reclaim the Streets
<http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/RTS/>
AN INCREASINGLY common urban artwork is the steel scaffolding tripod, erected in mid-thoroughfare

and complete with road protester along underneath in a hammock. Assembly instructions included here, along with everything else you might need to take over your local high street.

Feedback from last month's simultaneous global street party, which seems to have been successful in some places (Berkeley, California), alarming in others (Prague, where it turned into a riot), or desultory, as in Darwin, Australia: "Sorry but only 10 of us turned up."

100 Years, 100 Movies
<http://afi.100movies.com>
THE HUNDRED greatest-ever American movies will be announced here tomorrow, a selection the organisers confidently claim as "definitive".

The American Film Institute has joined forces with the big studios for the project, which includes a three-hour US network TV programme, a documentary series and a special edition of *Newsweek* magazine. The hit list will be selected by a panel of "experts",

which seems to mean not only filmmakers and critics but also the occupants of the White House.

Meanwhile, the public have been anticipating the tastes of the great and good by voting online for their own choices - stills and synopses from each of a 400-film shortlist are available on site.

So far, no surprises: the top three films are *Casablanca*, *Gone with the Wind* and *Citizen Kane*, though numbers eight and nine are, perhaps less predictably, *Schindler's List* and *Psycho*.

Ace Cafe
<http://www.ace-cafe-london.com/>
"FIRE IT UP!" is the slogan of this home page for the former bikers' haunt on London's North Circular road, part of Mark Wilmore's determined campaign to reopen what he claims is the most famous cafe in the world.

The Ace Cafe opened in 1938, but its heyday arrived in the late Fifties and early Sixties, when it was the supplier of 24-hour egg and chips to a generation of rockers and ton-up boys.

Open your eyes and see the future

WEB DESIGN

JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE



By 2000, the Web will bear no more resemblance to its current incarnation than a phone does to an Aldis lamp

FORGET ABOUT 15 minutes' of fame. In the future, everyone will be a Web designer.

As the Web is cultivated and expanded, a growing number of people are choosing to use this medium. Whether you are a movie buff extolling the virtues of *The Third Man*, or a multi-national corporation explaining why people should invest in your company, the Web is the way to get your message across.

But the Web is more than being an agent for the display of text, it is also an exceptionally visual medium which relies as much on our ability to "read" visual queues as it does on our ability to read text. It challenges our visual literacy - the ability to create and understand visual messages.

We are all inherently visually literate, yet we put little conscious effort into developing this skill. That is because traditional concepts of literacy are based on the ability to string words together in a coherent fashion and the ability to decipher the textual strings created by others.

Although it is unlikely that the need to read and write will ever be diminished, thanks to computers we are learning to communicate messages more effectively by utilising a variety of visual design skills, often without realising.

If your work involves information exchange, you have probably used a computer to write reports, send messages, outline schedules or numerous other things. In fact, it would be impossible to conceive of the modern workplace without the ubiquitous computer.

These devices allow us to be typographers, layout artists and graphic designers. We choose fonts, select column sizes and even add charts, graphs and graphics to our work - all mediated through the glowing screen. Thanks to computers, writing a good report no longer means just having straight margins. It means making the information as clear and attractive as possible.

The ability to draw, use colour and design are skills usually seen as the domain of a few talented individuals. There will always be some people who are more successful designers than others, but designing is a skill that is learned, just like reading and writing.

Andy Warhol promised that in the future everyone would have 15 minutes' of fame. What he didn't take into account was that if everybody was famous, then fame itself would become a meaningless concept.

With the Web, you can express yourself to the world - whether or not they want to listen. However, your ability to be "heard" will be based on two criteria: the quality of your message, and the quality of your visual presentation.

This brings us back to our original problem: visual

literacy is rarely taken as seriously as textual literacy.

There are lots of general sources for information about Web design: books, magazines, Web sites, even newspaper columns. There are also numerous university faculties that offer advanced degrees in computer-based design. But imagine if you had to wait to go to university to learn how to read!

What we need is for people to be educated in visual literacy alongside textual literacy. Fortunately there are organisations in Britain set up to encourage design education.

One of the most interesting is the National Society for Education in Art and Design's (<http://www.nsead.org>) Schoolart site (<http://www.schoolart.com>). This site is designed to aid educators who teach pupils from the age of three to 18 years in developing a curriculum that includes art and design units.

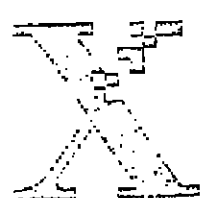
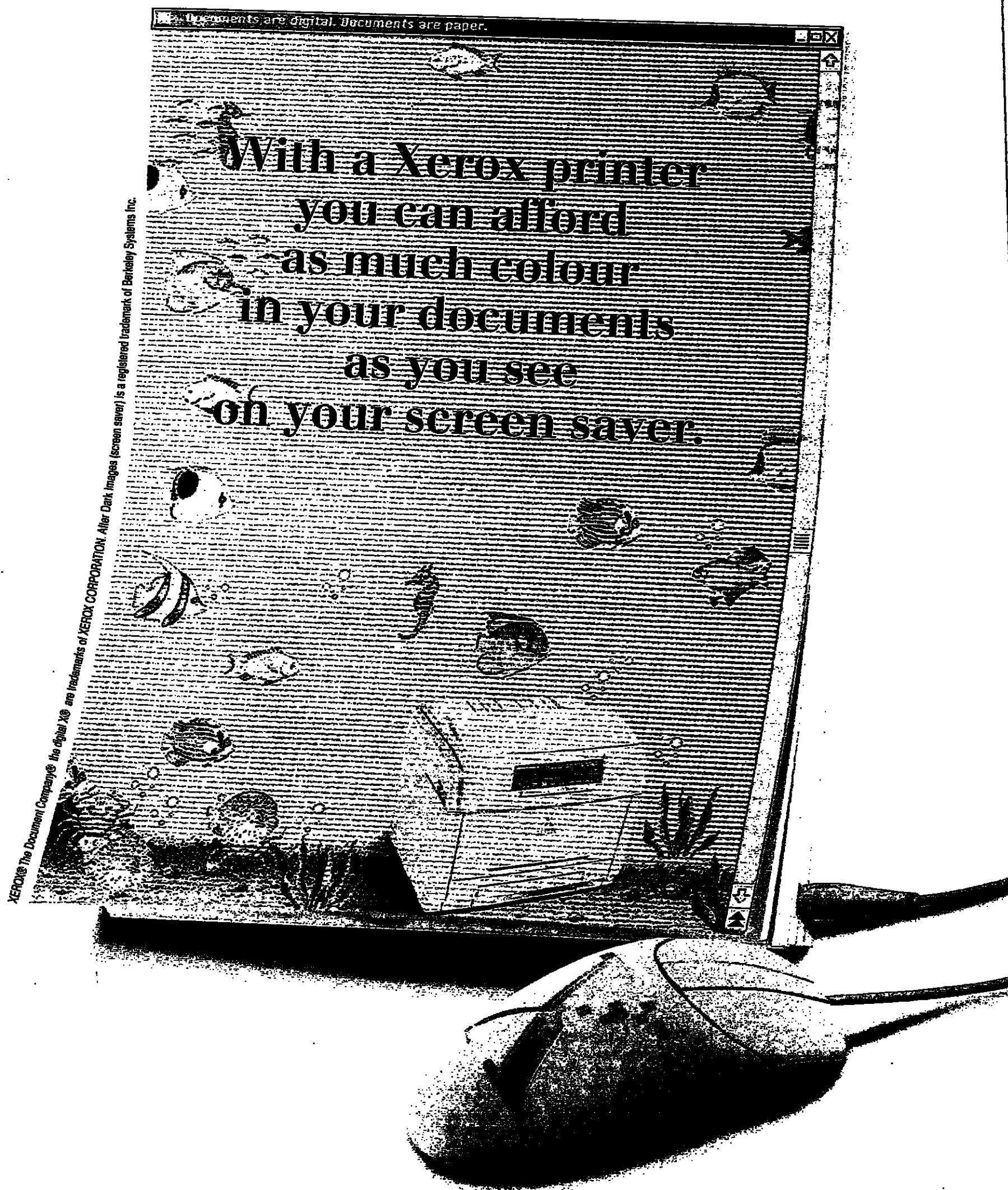
According to the society's Web site: "This begins the process of demystifying and democratising access to good ideas about teaching and learning through art." This site offers lessons for use by instructors wishing to develop the design and artistic skills of their pupils, as well as practical and theoretical information and discussion forums.

By the beginning of the new millennium - a scant two and a half years away - the Web will probably bear no more resemblance to its current incarnation than a telephone does to an Aldis lamp. The technologies used to create Web pages will continue to evolve, especially in the visual range.

As more people without formal design training become Web designers, their visual skills will be tested and challenged, but their ability to communicate will blossom in response.

In turn, this may lead to a radical change in the way we think.

E-mail comments or questions to Jason Cranford Teague at indy_webdesign@mindspring.com



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INTERNET DEVELOPER **SW LONDON**
To £25K
A rapidly growing company that has recently achieved Microsoft Certified Solution Provider status is urgently looking for at least two hands-on developers. Providing that you have experience of developing within an internet environment using C++/Visual C++, Java or Visual Basic then this position will prove very rewarding. Ref: C/5616/CEJ

NETWORK/LAN SPECIALIST **MIDDLESEX**
£20/35K
The company in systems recovery are looking for a number of people to join them within a LAN/Networking arena. Relevant candidates will be customer focused and be free to travel. Technically the environment covers Novell, Windows NT, Telephony, WAN, Cisco etc. Your career prospects here are excellent. Ref: C/5671/CEJ

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS **WEST LONDON**
£18-40K
Expanding software house which produce telecommunication software seek a number of software engineers. Applicants could be a 1998 Graduate with an IT related degree or people with several years development experience. They currently develop in C++ on a Windows NT platform, candidates should ideally have experience of C++, however other languages and a background in development will be considered. Ref: C/1843/GMB

SR Network Support Eng. x 2 **CENTRAL LONDON**
£20 - £24K
Successful IT solutions provider seek SR Network Support Engineers. Solid Novell 4 server skills are essential, with a selection of Email (CC Mail or MS Mail), Lotus Notes, Win 95, MS Office, and NT server. The role will involve 3rd line support to client sites. Strong communication skills and a strong personality will be essential. Fast track training to MCSE level will also be available. Ref: C/5542/NGR

DESK TOP SUPPORT **CENTRAL LONDON**
To £18K
Leading Financial software house are looking to expand their Help Desk team, the roles will require previous help desk experience, a solid understanding and some experience of Windows 95, and some exposure to Networking. The role will also lead to project work. A lively personality and strong communication skills will be essential to succeed in this role. Ref: C/5094/NGR

SYSTEMS ENGINEER **CENTRAL LONDON**
To £24K
Our client has a very urgent need for people to do a support role in a client facing environment. Solid hardware knowledge is essential with NT skills with exposure to a support environment. The role is general application support in a client facing environment. Network 3 connectivity experience would be a bonus. Ref: C/4501/QMW

ANALYST PROGRAMMER **WEST LONDON**
To £40K
Do you have strong Visual Basic development experience with SQL Server, Internet and MS Products skills. Ideally this role would suit someone with customer facing skills. This role is working as a consultant and a team leader, need to work as an individual advising clients or as a team leader working with others to develop solutions. Ref: C/5614/QMW

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT **BERKSHIRE**
£18K-£35K
Opportunities for senior and junior C++, Visual C++ Developers. Writing/modifying applications in C++ under Windows as well as software design from specification to production and beyond. If you have 6 months to 5 years experience and are seeking a new challenge incorporating ActiveX, DCOM, HTML, Java, SQL with full training. Ref: C/2857/ACJ

SYSTEMS CONSULTANT **BERKSHIRE**
£20K-£25K
Working for a Personnel Systems Team this role gives you the opportunity to utilise your support and payroll skills. With strong PC and Networks you will be involved in test, installation, documentation and support of applications to staff at 12 remote locations. Ref: C/5618/ACJ

COBOL & OPENVMS **HAMPSHIRE**
£25K
Due to continued success of market leading manufacturing systems several COBOL & Open VMS developers are needed. Working in an established team, you will have experience of analysis, design and programming and enjoy customer contact. If you have solid COBOL and Open VMS then call now. Ref: C/5001/ACJ

CLIENT SUPPORT ENGINEER **BERKSHIRE**
UP TO £25K + BENS
Exciting, varied and challenging! This role is all this and more. If you have strong PC/networking background - NT, Novell, Windows - enjoy client consultancy, like to put your hand to most thing in strong team environment then we have the role for you. Work for a company that keeps others working. Ref: C/5649/ACJ

INFORMIX DEVELOPERS **HAMPSHIRE**
UP TO £25K
Working for an analysis and development team with some support on European wide systems including sales/marketing/financial on large and small projects. The key skill is Informix and you will be cross trained to Oracle. Ref: C/5649/ACJ

SYSTEMS IMPLEMENTERS **SURREY**
To £30K
A UK based organisation with subsidiaries in the USA and Europe are seeking someone to become involved in the roll out of NT and UNIX systems. You will have experience working in a similar role and your skills will include Windows NT and SaaS UNIX, knowledge of a European foreign language would be beneficial, this role provides opportunities for training in the USA and European travel. Ref: C/5691/CAM

DEVELOPER **SURREY**
To £25K + BENS
An opportunity to join an expanding systems integrator involved in the leading edge of Internet systems development. You will have excellent client facing skills and development experience ideally in an NT or HTML environment, as well as development you will be involved in pre and post installation support, this provides an opportunity to become involved in the whole project life cycle. Ref: C/5595/CAM

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR **SURREY**
To £25K + BENS
An opportunity to become the IT person within this company, as such you will be involved in system support and administration, you will be able to recognise future market trends and technologies, your skills will include Windows NT4, MS Exchange and Cheyenne and virus tools. You will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Ref: C/5595/CAM

SENIOR SUPPORT ENGINEER **BERKSHIRE**
£30 to 35K + CAR/BENS
This is a senior level support role encompassing technical account management to high level clients based across Europe and Asia. The successful candidate will have a strong background in UNIX support and/or systems admin, with knowledge of Kernel tuning and shell scripting. Any knowledge of RDBMS and/or NT an advantage. Ref: C/4759/RAH

PRE-SALES CONSULTANT **BERKSHIRE**
£30 to 40K + BENS
A fantastic opportunity to join the front line support provider to one of the world's largest hardware manufacturers. The successful candidate will have strong background in Pre-Sales and up to date working knowledge of Hewlett Packard hardware, including 9000 range. Ref: C/5421/RAH

SYSTEMS ENGINEER **BERKSHIRE AND INT.**
£30 to 35K + CAR/BENS
Once in a lifetime opportunity to join one of the most successful back up/storage management software companies. Due to growth, our clients now have an urgent requirement for someone with proven track record in direct OEM support and excellent knowledge of NT and PC networking to join their Pre-Sales team. Ref: C/5699/RAH

TEST ANALYST **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**
To £33K
Co-ordinating and testing throughout the project development life cycle developing and supervising the execution of tests based on functional requirements. You will have a knowledge of distributed systems (e.g. WINDOWS, NT, UNIX), an understanding of relational database technology and familiarity with automated test tools. Ref: C/5662/JHV

PROJECT MANAGER **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**
To £35K
Become involved in providing common systems across Europe for this global blue chip concern. Project managing/leading a team working within a client/server environment you will be fully conversant with full development cycle and have strong analytical and problem solving skills. Any knowledge of VISUAL BASIC or NSDK would be useful but certainly not essential. Ref: C/5328/JHV

QUALITY ENGINEER **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**
To £24K
Working in the QA department you will be liaising closely with the software development teams, assisting with the development of the testing procedures and conducting quality systems audits. You will have an IT background and have first hand experience of the software development and test cycle. Knowledge of ISO9001 would be advantageous. Ref: C/4859/JHV

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**
To £27K
Working on a major development programme moving core systems into a Client / Server environment. Designing and developing 'C' applications. Ideally you will have at least 1 years plus MS Visual C++ or 'C' and have experienced working in a project environment. Use of structured methods (for example PRINCE/PROMPT) and full life cycle experience would be an added bonus. Ref: C/5599/JHV

LAN SUPPORT **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**
UP TO £27K
Providing second line support for LAN services through this global concerns European Headquarters. Familiar with LAN technology you will ideally have range of the following- Windows NT, TCP/IP, DHCP and / or SQL databases. If you have a proactive approach to problem solving and enjoy user liaison call us today for the full brief. Ref: C/5599/JHV

SENIOR PROGRAMMER **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**
To £40K + OVERTIME
Working on specific internet related project for this market leader. Highly motivated you will be looking for a role not only offering the technical challenge but also offering you the opportunity to have a real impact on the use of technology within this area. With at least 2 years C/C++ under your belt and the ability to write high speed, optimised algorithms CALL TODAY. Ref: C/5599/JHV

GRADUATES '98 **BUCKS & UK WIDE**
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schouffat@iada.co.uk

Our technical staff are not just numbers on the payroll - they are our managers and consultants of the future. They are involved in all aspects of the profession including project management, analysis and business development.

We use the latest object-oriented development tools to produce bespoke client/server and intranet applications. We have extensively researched methods of deploying database applications on the internet and are developing ground-breaking, dynamic web systems.

We need both development and network engineering staff at all levels, from programmers and engineers to systems analysts and project leaders. You do not need to have any specific experience, but it would be useful if developers had knowledge of object-oriented programming, client/server or intranet techniques and a major RDBMS.

As well as having the right characteristics to fit into our organisation, you will also be:

- a graduate with a 2:1 or better in an appropriate subject
- technically outstanding
- able to learn quickly and solve problems
- able to communicate orally and in writing
- committed to following quality procedures
- willing to work on assignments at clients' sites.

We offer excellent pay and benefits and, if you perform well, you can expect fast promotion as we grow. The package includes:

- non-contributory pension
- private health insurance
- life insurance
- permanent health insurance
- share options
- 25 days holiday.

We provide training and support within a challenging work environment. The Company is young, dynamic and based in a lively part of central London. We operate a strict no-smoking policy.

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To maintain our industry leading position and to support continued growth, we are now seeking to recruit enthusiastic and communicative team players to assist in the delivery of world class desktop, networking and telecommunications services to our internal user population.

The current technical infrastructure is at the leading edge and is continually updated to reflect business needs. It consists of Microsoft technology including Windows NT, SQL Server, Exchange, Office and Internet tools. On the telecomms side it includes ISDX and voice manager systems.

As well as taking responsibility for supporting the existing technology and delivering a high level of customer satisfaction, you will also become involved in project work relating to the on-going development of the infrastructure and the implementation of new technologies.

It is essential that you are a bright, motivated individual capable of technical problem solving and with the ability to work effectively both as part of a team and on your

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own initiative. You will ideally be of graduate calibre with at least 1 year's technical support experience including PC networking and/or telecomms and looking to cross - train to newer technologies and broaden your skill-set. Alternatively, you will be a quick learner currently in a customer handling role with a proven interest in IT and looking to make the transition into a technical support environment.

As you would expect from an industry leader, RM provides excellent training and will not restrict individuals with flair. We will support you in your desire to achieve industry recognised qualifications such as MCSE and constant growth means that there is ample opportunity for talented and ambitious individuals to climb the career ladder.

If you are looking for personal and technical development within a high-profile, forward thinking organisation offering first class training, remuneration and benefits, and feel you have something to offer, please contact our retained consultants now.

Please write with CV & salary details to: Rebecca Kingsley-Bates at Haybrook Appointments, Suite B, Regal Court, 112 London Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9AE. Tel: (01865) 742456. Fax: (01865) 742459. Email: haybrook@cx.co.uk

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The IM&T Directorate of the Royal Hospitals NHS Trust develops a wide range of computer services in healthcare applications for some of London's most famous hospitals. We currently have a number of opportunities for Programmers and Systems Managers to work on a wide range of applications and services.

Applications Programmer

Salary from £13.5K

Ref: AP102

We are seeking recent Computer Science (or related) graduates to join the Directorate as Applications Programmers to work within teams developing the core hospital systems. Projects include client-server development, systems integration and electronic data transmission (EDI) to remote sites. Experience of Basic, SQL and PC software development environments is desirable.

Unix Systems Manager

Salary from £25K

Ref: TE97

Senior Systems Manager

Salary from £30K

Ref: TE98

Our Technical Department manages a range of servers and operating environments including HP and DEC Unix, VMS and OpenVMS on DEC VAX and Alpha, and Windows NT. Projects include porting corporate systems to Alpha, implementation and management of NT Domains, migration of E-mail to Exchange, NHSnet, and remote administration for our PC clients.

Contact Michelle Chaffin on 0171 377 7072 for application form and further details, quoting one of the above references.

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Please send your full CV to A & P Computer Services, A & P House, Barnet Business Centre, Akton Road, Barnet, Herts BN5 4BL. email: admin@apjobs.demon.co.uk

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We have a challenging opportunity for an experienced assistive technology co-ordinator. This is an exciting new post which demands comprehensive knowledge of information technology equipment and software applications and which offers you the chance to make a valued contribution.

Action for Blind People is national charity working for and with people who are blind or partially sighted. We believe that assistive technology is crucial to maximising employment opportunities. Our objective is to help people access and understand the technology which can help them to become active participants in the "information society"

You will need experience of assessing the needs of visually impaired people, preferably within employment situations, and you will have proven software development and installation experience such as Jaws or Hal.

Regular travel will be required and we can be flexible about your working base. If you have the knowledge and skills to help us achieve our aim, please contact Kim Southwood for an application pack by telephone on 0171 732 8771 or in writing to the Personnel Department, Action for Blind People, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ, or e mail Kim_s@afbp.org

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Senior Analyst, Accounting	Salary: £25,000
Senior Analyst, HR	Salary: £25,000
Senior Analyst, IT	Salary: £25,000

These are just a sample of the many varied vacancies we currently dealing with. Please call Adrian Haybrook on 01865 742456 for more information. Haybrook@cx.co.uk

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Service Managers perform a key role, ensuring that the IT service delivered is responsive to the needs of the client department. This includes the management of service level agreements, the development of departmental IT strategies and advice on the appropriate application of IT to meet departmental and organisational needs.

You will be responsible for ensuring that there is an effective relationship between the IT Department and the client and you will require excellent communication and organisational skills.

You will need a minimum of eight years' experience in an IS/IT environment from either a customer or IT specialist perspective.

For further details and an application form please send a stamped addressed A4 envelope (60p) to Human Resources Development Personnel Unit, Room 229, Municipal Offices, 222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR, quoting reference HR/SM. Closing date: 10th July 1998. Interviews will take place some time in July.

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Ref: JC-7608/1P

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Ref: 7607/1P

UNIX SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR
Oxford
Experienced Unix System Administrator, ideally with Sequant, HP-UX knowledge, though cross training available. Working for prestigious Software House, with offices throughout UK working on their internal system. The company have a strong policy of investing in their staff and providing unlimited career opportunities.
Ref: JS-7609/1P

VISUAL C++ ISDN DEVELOPMENT
Basingstoke
to £35,000
Have you always aspired to move into a career in Telecommunications development. Well don't let this opportunity pass you by. We are looking for talented Visual C++, MFC developers to work on the next generation of ISDN Telecommunication systems. You will have ideally acquired between 12 months to 2 years experience of solid Visual C++, MFC development. Coupled with this you will have a technical mind and a lively attitude.
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GAMES DEVELOPER
VISUAL C++ *JAVA* DELPHI
Guildford, Surrey
to £37,500
Working for one of the largest home games software companies in the world, with a truly global presence, the job entails you defining internet marketing applications and standards as well as a technology consultant to the Internet/Intranet teams. You will be working in a fun yet hard working atmosphere. We need a person who wants to develop their career with their skills profile and has ability and desire to succeed.
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DELPHI DEVELOPERS
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The Company: Well established in Asset Management and Financial systems with a proven range of products and tools. The Job: Developing the latest in a range of PC Client Server applications and tools. You will be using Delphi v2 on Windows95 and NT with some SQL.
You: Graduate with at least one year of practical experience using Delphi (version 1 or 2). A positive attitude and any SQL knowledge will be advantageous.
Ref: MD-7608/1P

'C' UNIX CONSULTANT
Kew Bridge, Middlesex
to £42,000 + Benefits
C' UNIX Consultant required to work for a leading consultancy. You will work closely with blue chip client on systems installations and in a pure consultancy role. To become part of this extremely successful company, you will have extensive C under UNIX development skills and be comfortable within an AS/400 environment. This is an ideal opportunity to move from development to consultancy whilst learning new skills such as Project Manager. Ref: GR-7607/1P

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London
Salary to £35,000
Have you had at least two years experience in INFORMIX 4GL Programming? Are you currently using Shell Scripts? This is a fantastic opportunity to work for an extremely large Utilities firm. If your Structured Analysis and Design Techniques are being wasted (SSAM) or your Powerbuilder/Visual Basic background is not being "utilised", please call Pam Jennings on 0171 839 2626.
Ref: FJ-7601/1P

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Newbury, Berks
£20,000 - £40,000
The world leaders in the field of mobile telecommunications are URGENTLY seeking

C++ developers with strong Object Oriented skills. You will be involved in Full Life Cycle projects and it would therefore be advantageous to have additional skills in DCL or Rdb. In return you will receive an excellent salary and training package with benefits including: 27 days holiday, Share Saver and Relocation Allowance. Ref: ID-7608/1P

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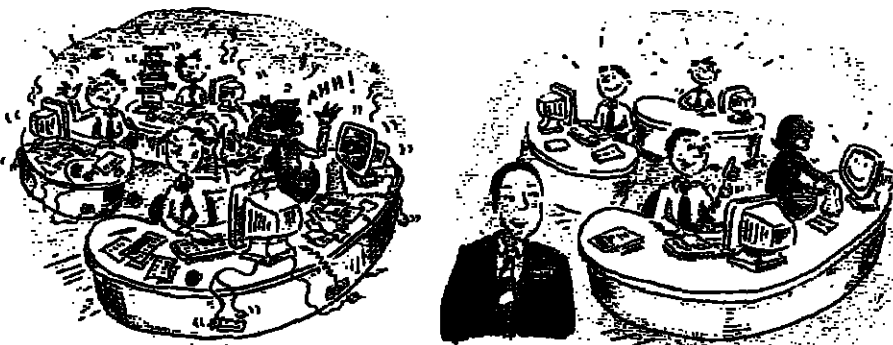
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Could you work in an environment where your achievements will be recognised and rewarded? Our company strategy will allow consultants with a minimum of one years experience and a good track record to have the lifestyle so many have dreamed about. The hours worked and your commitment will be reflected in your huge earning potential.

We are one of the country's fastest growing IT Resource Specialists and our continuing growth means we now need additional bright and enthusiastic individuals who have what it takes to succeed in an IT Resource Centre.

While experience in the IT market would be beneficial, the most important characteristics are sales ability and a burning ambition to succeed.

Indicative package: 1st year OTE £40k (no limits)
2nd year OTE £60k (absolutely no limits)
Candidates with IT experience can expect to earn more!!!

Please send your CV to Barbara Cliffe in the first instance, further details are available on request.

Telephone: 01908 673111 Fax: 01908 673117 E-mail: personnel@nigroup.co.uk

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COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Software

UMTS & GSM Technology

South East/West
£18 - £28K
The company is set to be a world leader in UMTS and 2nd Generation GSM technology. They are pro-actively recruiting a variety of engineers throughout the year including Software (C++, C, C#, Java, Perl, PHP), Project Managers and Consultants.
You would have clearly come from a mobile communications background with a degree and at least 1 years' full experience. However, a bright and motivated individual may also apply.
Ref: JAD/003

DSP R&D
£23 - £48K + Bonus
Does the opportunity to explore the realms of DSP techniques within the Mobile Communications and control industry excite you? The project is set to make history with the UK. To make history you will need a PhD or a 2:1/2:2 BSc with proven DSP experience, preferably speech/voice processing algorithms, filter techniques, wavelet, or any electronic design experience would be an advantage. Opportunity exists once, and you must seize it. Ref: JAD/011

Firmware
£18 - £28K
The dynamic company is a world leader in Control and Instrumentation solutions for diverse applications for the Aerospace, Telecommunications, and Automation industries. They now require new Software Engineers, Java and C++ Developers, where you will have an Engineering degree and at least 1 years' minimum experience in C++, Java, and Embedded Systems. In return you will receive ongoing training and some opportunity for travel. Ring now!
Ref: JAD/011

SWP
RECRUITMENT
Tel: 01442 212555
Fax: 01442 231555



ITC Consultants
We are a rapidly developing software house providing IT solutions for a range of clients within the manufacturing, logistics, financial, medical and hospitality sectors. We need people who have the following experience:
• Experience in client/server architecture using products like PowerBuilder and Delphi
• Experience in relational database systems like Oracle, Sybase and MS SQL Server
• Experience in Electronic Commerce and computer based decision support technology
• Experience in Internet based technology like HTML, Java, Visual Interdev
Good communication skills, exposure to ISO 9000 processes and awareness of Year 2000 issues are also a necessity.
Must have the ability to work as a Consultant on most initiatives as part of a team and be willing to travel/relocate at short notice within the UK.
Salary between £25-30K for the right individual. Please reply to writing, enclosing your CV, current salary, career history and references to: ITC Consultants Ltd, Harlow House, 118 Sutton Lane West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2DN.

AS/400 Roles in UK

Midlands

Apollo Management Systems
Birmingham area AS/400

A major AS/400 software house is recruiting experienced AS/400 developers and implementers for team projects.
Based in the Birmingham area, we have excellent prospects for new skill acquisition. You will need 1 year commercial programming development experience. We will cross train successful candidates and offer an excellent remuneration package.

Apply to: Tim Platt, Managing Director,
Apollo Management Systems, Onit House,
Station Road Knowle, Solihull B36 0JL.
Tel: 01564 770400. Fax: 01564 771005

Synod - Dorset/South Coast

Up to £40K package
Folgate Insurance Co Ltd - Poole

A major financial services company offering a relocation package, to work in one of the best coastal resorts in the UK, for people with 2 years' Synod experience.

Full development life cycle projects on offer, plus the chance to develop new technical skills and gain management experience in the company's expanding IT Department.

Apply by ringing: Pat Bennett, Personnel Manager, or sending her a CV with current salary package to:
Folgate House, Upton Road, Poole, Dorset BH17 7AG.
Tel: 01202 634125. Fax: 01202 634005

All relevant enquiries welcome, including third party agencies.

Compile

Recruitment

12a Castle Street,
Berkhamsted,
Herts.
Tel: 01442 872112
Fax: 01442 872114
E-mail: compile@aol.com

Herts London

Oasis 400 Software Plc
£25K - £35K plus car plus bonus

We are a leading systems integration company, based in Hertfordshire, specialising in bespoke development for both AS/400 and Windows/NT platforms.

We need experienced RPG analyst/programmers looking for diverse and interesting work.

Full training programmes are available to learn new technologies.

Telephone: Steve Gapp on 01442 213020
Fax: 01442 251080
E-mail: steve.gapp@oasis400.co.uk

Bucks/Oxon

Major International Marketing Company
Bucks/Oxford Area

We are looking for a senior RPG/AS/400 Analyst Programmer with 5 years' experience to be responsible for a team of 2. This is a project planning role requiring strong RPG/400, CL and DDS. Salary £32,000.

A role for a graduate AP is also available. Cross training to Access/MS and SQL is provided with a salary of £25,000.

Send C.V. to our retained consultant Jonathan Pile,
Compile Recruitment Ltd.,
12a Castle Street, Berkhamsted HP4 2BQ
Tel: 01442 872112. Fax: 01442 872114
E-mail: compile@aol.com

Call FREE on 0800 0685079 for further details of these and many other similar vacancies that we are recruiting

WEB/DATABASE PROGRAMMER

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
£25,000 - £33,000
Web development company with growing clientele of blue-chip organisations seeks experienced Web/DATABASE Programmer. The role requires strong database design experience coupled with skills such as: SQL Server, VB Script, Windows NT and a strong knowledge of Internet protocols. Will suit a self-starter with strong desire to work in fast moving, demanding environment.

NATIONWIDE
to £45,000 + BENEFITS
The demand for ADABAS/NATURAL programming skills continues unabated. We have clients in all business sectors including Banking, Insurance, Telecoms, Leisure and Consultancy who require Programmers, Analysts/Programmers, Analysts and DBAs with other RDB mainframes, UNIS or VMS based technical experience. Genuine opportunities for career development towards Team/Project leading or Technical Architecting in client server/CO development.

UNIS SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS
£40,000 + PACKAGE
The financial corporation is IT driven, invests massively in the latest technology and is dedicated to personal career development and training. They also offer top of the range salaries and remuneration packages. Candidates with 1 year + UNIS Systems Administration experience preferable in a SQL, VFP, UK or RS6000 environments with shell scripting, PC/Client server software, TCP/IP transports and SQL skills will be working hard in hand with Development, Testing and Business Users.

MIS MANAGER
£35,000
As MIS Manager for the leader in online communications you will be responsible for managing and running the systems group. Ideal opportunity to increase your management responsibility and retain your technical expertise, providing hands on support in a technically dynamic environment. Your team is responsible for the LAN and IT services, desktop support, telephony, application support and all related tasks. You must have good NT4, LANMAN design and the ability to work on multiple simultaneous projects.

SENIOR TECHNICAL CONSULTANT
£35,000 + EXCELLENT BENEFITS
IT Solutions provider and authorized IBM reseller requires a senior technical consultant to join their expanding organisation. By integrating with their customer IT department your progress will become an additional revenue stream to give the highest level of support. You will also have the opportunity of networking you will provide a complete range of on-site implementation and post installation support to our customers.

LOTUS NOTES/GROUPWARE CONSULTANT
£45,000
City based computer consultancy requires Senior Groupware Consultant to provide a highly functional and innovative solutions for their client's technical problems. Excellent opportunities for a person of graduate calibre with extensive experience in Lotus Notes and knowledge of a number of peripheral technologies e.g. Lotus Script/Quick, OLE integration and integration of Notes to relational databases.

TECHNICAL AUTHOR
£20,000 + BENEFITS
KENT
A leading audio-visual lighting company seeks a Technical Author to produce and maintain user support documentation for the company's product range. You will plan and document the procedures for technical support, installation and release writing accurate and producing relevant illustrations for them. Skills required are the ability to write clearly, technically, accurately and attention to detail. With Ventures, Programmer or Control Desk.

1998 IT GRADUATES
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AZTECH COMPUTER RECRUITMENT
aztech@aztechjobs.co.uk

NETWORK appointments also appear on pages 17, 18 & 20.

هكذا من الأصل

SIDCUP

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup
Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel
& Laurence 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm The Wedding Singer 1.45pm,
4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-707071) BR: Cricke-
wood Deep Impact 3pm, 5.45pm,
8.30pm Red Corner 2.10pm, 5.20pm,
8.30pm The Replacement Killers
1.45pm, 3.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm
Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
Soul Food 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm
The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

STREATHAM

ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill
Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm
The Grass Harp 2.20pm, 6.05pm,
8.35pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.35pm,
8.40pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill
Bridget Jones's Diary 1.50pm, 4.10pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm The Girl With Stripes
In Her Hair 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm,
8.55pm The Replacement Killers
2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Soul Food 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
The Wedding Singer 1.10pm, 3.40pm,
6pm, 8.30pm

STRAFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (555 3366) BR: Stratford
East The Real Blonde 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
Titanic 3.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Sliding Doors 4.15pm, 9.10pm The Wedding
Singer 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton
Morden Blues Brothers 2000
3.30pm Deep Impact 3.15pm, 6pm,
8.45pm Red Corner 3.45pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm Sliding Doors 4.30pm, 7pm,
9.10pm The Wedding Singer 4.15pm, 6.45pm,
9.15pm Wild Things 9pm
Wishmaster 9.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519)
Turnpike Lane The General 2.30pm,
5.20pm, 8pm Red Corner 3.20pm,
5.55pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer
4pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813139) BR: Uxbridge
Deep Impact 1.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 4pm,
6.25pm, 8.45pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) BR: Walthamstow
Central Deep Impact 2.30pm, 5.20pm,
8.40pm The Wedding Singer 1.25pm,
3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Wishmaster
8.40pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames
Sliding Doors 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm,
6.35pm, 8.50pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Well Hall
The Big Lebowski 2.15pm,
5.50pm, 8.10pm The Wedding Singer
4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: Wimbledon
South Wimbledon The Big Lebowski 2.10pm, 5.10pm,
8.25pm Live Flesh 1.20pm, 3.40pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 3.30pm,
3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Wedding
Singer 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South
Woodford The Big Lebowski 8.10pm
Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.40pm Sliding
Doors 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The
Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.50pm,
6.10pm, 8.30pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal
Deep Impact 3.15pm,
5.50pm, 8.20pm The Replacement
Killers 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTI-
TUT FRANCAIS Querschnitt Place
SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146)
La Spettacolo 3.30pm Mexican
Fantasy (NC) 7.30pm

EVERYMAN Hollywood Vale NW3
(0171-435 1525) Sliding Doors (15)
1.35pm, 9pm The Seventh Seal (15)
1.35pm, 5pm + Wild Strawberries
3.20pm

ICA CINEMA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) Nowhere (18) 5pm, 7pm,
9pm Eating Raoul (15) 6.30pm
Vizen (18) 8.30pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274)
Titanic (12) 2pm, 7pm Three Days
to Sydney + The Song Of Ceylon (NC)
6.15pm Bent (18) 8.30pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA The
Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-484 4153) Everest (U) 11.15am,
1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm, 7.35pm,
9.40pm Across The Sea Of Time (U)
A New York Adventure (3-D) (U)
12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm,
8.35pm, 10.40pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2
(0181-883 2233) Afterglow (18) 1pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Deconstructing
Harry (18) 1.15pm, 3.45pm Straight
No Chaser (PG) 6.15pm + Round
Midnight 8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) In The Company
Of Men (18) 1.30pm Afterglow
Resurrection (18) 3.30pm Wilde (15)
6pm Boogie Nights (18) 8.30pm

RIO CINEMA Kingsland High Street
E8 (0171-254 6677) Soul Food (15)
3.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS
CINEMA Crisp Road W6 (0181-741
2255/cc 420 0100) Arsene and Old
Lace (PG) 6.15pm + It's A Wonderful
Life 8.35pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA
(01273-626261) The Real Blonde (15)
4.15pm, 6pm Washington Square
(PG) 1.45pm, 3.45pm A Zed And Two
Nothings (15) Fri 11.15pm

BRISTOL

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
Western (15) 5.45pm Anne Frank
Remembered (12) 6pm Afterglow
(15) 8.20pm Like It Is (18) 8.50pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Liar (18) 12.30pm, 5pm The Real
Blonde (15) 2.45pm, 9pm Oscar And
Lucinda (15) 7pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE
(01222-399666) Shall We Dance?
(PG) 7.30pm Ymadrawd Ardur (NC)
7.30pm Bride Of War (12) 8pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) The
Boxer (15) 8.15pm TwentyFourSeven
(15) 5.45pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Les
Voleurs (18) 8pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON
ABC EAST STREET (01273-327010) Sliding Doors (15) The Grass
Harp (PG) The Wedding Singer (12)
ODEON (01273-207977) The Big
Lebowski (18) The Ice Storm (15) The
Replacement Killers (18) The
Wedding Singer (12) Deep Impact
(12) City Of Angels (12) A Thousand
Acres (15) Soul Food (15) Dark City
(15) Mouseshunt (PG)

BRISTOL
APRILINI (0117-929 9191) Ugly
Dolls (PG) The Hunters (18) Shall We Dance? (PG)

BRISTOL CINEWORLD THE
MOVIES (01275-831099) Red Corner
(15) In & Out (12) Sliding
Doors (15) The Replacement Killers
(18) A Thousand Acres (15) Deep Impact
(12) Seven Years in Tibet (PG) Flubber
(U) Mouseshunt (PG) Wishmaster
(18) Scream 2 (18) Martha - Meet
Frank, Daniel & Laurence (15) Blues
Brothers 2000 (PG) Babe (U) City Of
Angels (12) The Devil's Advocate (18) Dark
City (15) The Big Lebowski (18) The
Wedding Singer (12) Titanic (12) Anastasia
(U) Sarbanas Danni Guru Gobind Singh
(PG) Picture Perfect (PG) Star Kid (PG) The
Apostle (12) Sliding Doors (15)

OPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-952
1644) Sliding Doors (15) Deep Impact
(12) Washington Square (PG) Prince Valiant
(PG)

ODEON (0117-929 0882) BR: Odeon
(U) George Of The Jungle (U) Scream
2 (18) The Remains Of The Day (U) The
Wedding Singer (12) Dark City
(15) City Of Angels (12) The Land
Before Time (U)

ABC WHITEALDS ROAD
(0117-973 3640) Deep Impact (12)
City Of Angels (12) Sliding Doors (15)
Red Corner (15)

EASTBOURNE
CURZON (01323-714141) Wild
Things (18) Blues Brothers 2000 (PG)
Washington Square (PG) The Wood-
landers (PG) Paradise Road (15) Les
Voleurs (18) The Tango Lesson (PG)
Star Kid (PG)

NEWPORT
ABC (01633-254326) Deep Impact (12)
Titanic (12) The Wedding Singer (12)
VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555155) Sliding
Doors (12) Star Kid (PG) Hotel De
Love (15) The Replacement Killers
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VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555155) Sliding
Doors (12) Star Kid (PG) Hotel De
Love (15) The Replacement Killers
(18) Blues Brothers 2000 (PG) A
Thousand Acres (15) Dark City (15)
Deep Impact (12) Scream 2 (18) Mouseshunt
(PG) The Wedding Singer (12) The
Replacement Killers (18) Sliding
Doors (15) Flubber (U) Mouseshunt
(PG) City Of Angels (12) Red Corner
(15) Sliding Doors (15)

NEWPORT
ABC (01633-254326) Deep Impact (12)
Titanic (12) The Wedding Singer (12)
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Doors (12) Star Kid (PG) Hotel De
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(PG) City Of Angels (12) Red Corner
(15) Sliding Doors (15)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for the week, running
times and prices for the week, running
times include intervals. ● Seats at all
prices ● Seats at some prices ○
Returns only Matinees ● [1] Sun, [3]
Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thu, [6] Fri, [7] Sat

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Lavish family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale.
Omnium Totum Theatre Court Road, W1
(0171-656 1888)
● Tolt Cl Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7]
2.30pm, 5.15-5.22.50, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS
Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool
musical melodrama about two boys separated
at birth. Phoenix Charing Cross Road,
WC2 (0171-969 1733) ● Leicester Sq
Cl Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7]
4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

CATS
Lloyd Webber's musical
version of TS Eliot's poems. New
London Palace Street, WC2 (0171-405
0072/cc 404 0079) ● Covent Gar-
den/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7]
3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO
Ruthie Henshall stars
in this sexy hit Broadway musical about
two murderous women.
Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344
0055) ● Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7]
2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130
mins.

CLOSER
Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber
starring Frances Barber and Liza Walker.
Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5045) ● Picc Circle. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4][7] 3pm, £25-£27.50, 140 mins.

ELTON JOHN'S
GLASSES
David Fair's comedy
about one man's obsession with Watford
Football Club and their failure to win the
Cup Final in 1984. Queen's Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590/cc 344
4444) ● Picc Circle. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat
8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £10.50-£27.50,
140 mins.

GAS STATION ANGEL
Set in Wales, the story of two lovers who
are told to meet, from the creator of House
of America. Not suitable for children.
Royal Court Upstairs (at the
Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565
5000) ● Leicester Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7]
4pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£10, bench-
es 10pm, Mon & matinees ● all seats £5

GREASE
Marissa Dunlop stars
in the stage version of the hit film about
love and life in a 1950s American high
school. Cambridge Earthen Street,
WC2 (0171-494 5085) ● Covent Gar-
den. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-
£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND
Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of
Friedrich Schiller's comedy. Albery St. Martin's
Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 867
1111) ● Leicester Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5]
3pm, [7] 4pm, £7.50-£29.50, 165 mins

AN INSPECTOR CALLS
Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed
production of J.R. Priestley's thriller.
Garrett Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-494 5085) ● Leicester Sq. Mon-Fri
7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7]
5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS
Musical set in 1950s Cape Town about
the rise and fall of a band.
Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836
9987) BR/VC Charing X. Mon-Thu 8pm,
Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, £6.25-£27.50,
130 mins.

A LETTER OF
RESIGNATION
Hugh Whitemore's
play about the Profumo affair and
political morality. Savoy Strand, WC2
(0171-936 8888/cc 836 0479) ● Charing
X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4]
3pm, [7] 4pm, £12.50-£25, 135 mins.

LES MISERABLES
Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's
sprawling 19th century masterpiece.
Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434
4091) ● Picc Circle. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7]
2.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

THE MIDSUMMERS
Palme, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles
and Anna Carter star in Ramin Karim's new
translation of Moliere's comedy.
Pleasance Drury Lane, W1 (0171-369
1734) ● Picc Circle. In rep, tonight
7.45pm, continuing, 8.50-12.27.50, concs
£12.50, 140 mins.

MISS SAIGON
Musical which
retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane
Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080)
● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
[4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

THE MOURNERS
Christie's whodunnit just keeps on
running. St Martin's West Street, WC2
(0171-936 1443) ● Leicester Sq. Mon-Sat
8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 3pm, £9-£23, 135
mins.

MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING
Declan Donnell directs
Cheek By Jowl in an intellectual new
production of Shakespeare's dark
classic about the sparring lovers.
Playhouse Northumberland Avenue,
WC2 (0171-939 4401/cc 316 4747)
● Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[5][7] 2.30pm, ends 25 Jul, £10-£22.

THE PHANTOM OF THE
OPERA
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
gothic musical about a doomed love
between the wealthy heiress, SW1
(0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ● Picc
Circle. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm,
£10-£32.50, 150 mins.

POPCORN
Lawrence Boswell
directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema
violence. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5070) ● Picc Circle. Mon-Sat
8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £5.50-£23.50,
150 mins.

THE REAL INSPECTOR
HOUND & BLACK COMEDY
Double bill of drama about drama from
Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer,
directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Pan-
theon Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Picc
Circle/Laic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7]
3pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

RENT
Jonathan Larson's
unfinished musical inspired by
La Boheme and set in modern day New
York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue,
WC2 (0

